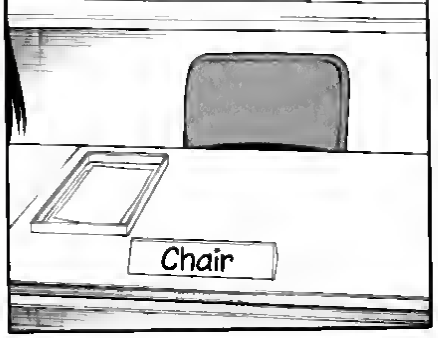
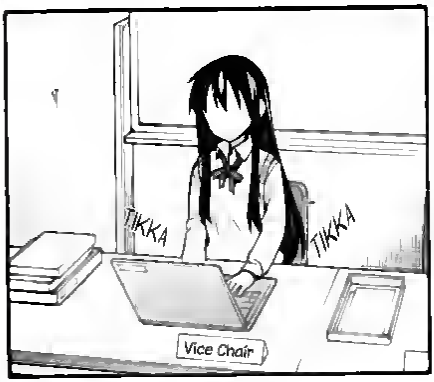
Yahari Ore No Seishun Lovecome Wa Machigatteiru
-Monologue

Original Wataru Watari Character design Ponkan

CHAPTER
22

CONFERENCE ROOM
SOUBU HIGH
CULTURAL FESTIVAL
QUESTION:
WHAT NEVER RUNS OUT NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU WORK ON IT?
ANSWER:
WORK.
PILE


Chair


TIKKA
TIKKA
Vice Chair

SCATTERED...

TAKE CARE OF THIS...
THUMP

.....
PHEW

TIKKA
TIKKA
TIKKA

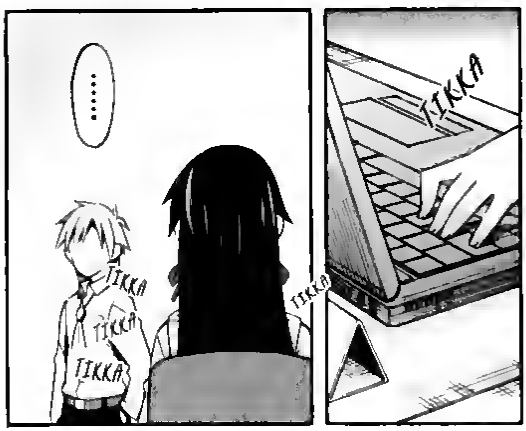
THE ATTENDANCE IN THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS DRASTICALLY DECREASED.
WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF OUR AGENDA, AND I THINK OUR CLASSES ARE ALSO IMPORTANT
SO WHY DON'T WE ALL TAKE IT EASY?
YOU KNOW
I THINK I SHOULD'VE VETOED SAGAMI-SAN'S PROPOSAL...
FLIP

EXCUSE ME.
SLIDE
HEH HEH!
YOU KNOW, IT'S THE FACT THAT I DON'T HAVE A SAY IN THIS THAT MAKES ME A CORPORAL SLAVE.
SORRY.
WITH THE PEOPLE HERE RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TO SHARE ALL THE WORK AROUND OR WE WON'T MAKE IT.
I CAME HERE TO SUBMIT THE VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS...
APPLICATIONS GO TO THE BOX ON THE RIGHT.
THANKS.
GLANCE
GLANCE

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WHOLE SITUATION.
WHEN A LACKEY LIKE ME HAS TO TAKE CHARGE OF A DEPART-MENT, I CAN'T FOCUS ON ANYTHING ELSE.
GOT ENOUGH HANDS?
YOU.
TMP
TMP
ARE YOU PICKING A FIGHT?
TWITCH
SUITS YOU...
I'M IN CHARGE OF HISTORI-AN DUTIES.
YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF A DEPART-MENT?
STOP
THE WAY I SEE IT, IT PRETTY MUCH LOOKS LIKE YUKINOSHITA-SAN'S DOING ALL THE WORK.
BUT,

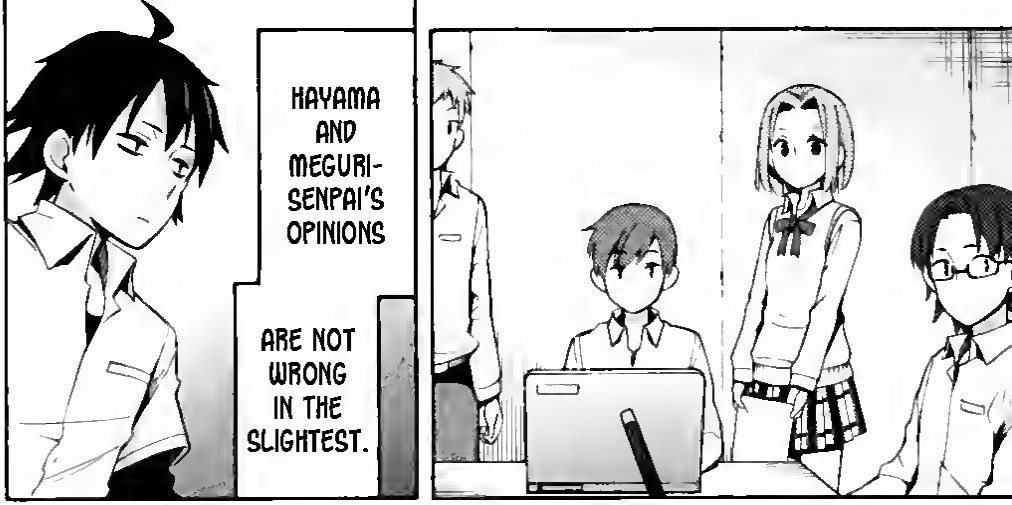
IT'S MORE...
...CONVENIENT THAT WAY.
.....

YOU SHOULD RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.
.....


.....
TIKKA
TIKKA
TIKKA
TIKKA
TIKKA

BUT,
IT'S BOUND TO FALL APART.

I'LL GATHER UP THE VOLUNTEER GROUPS
AND ACT AS THE VOLUNTEER GROUP REP.
I'LL HELP YOU.
HOW ABOUT IT?
YUKINOSHITA-SAN, IT'S IMPORTANT TO RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE.
HARU-SAN WOULD ALSO DO THE SAME...
.....


HAYAMA AND MEGURI-SENPAI'S OPINIONS
ARE NOT WRONG IN THE SLIGHTEST.

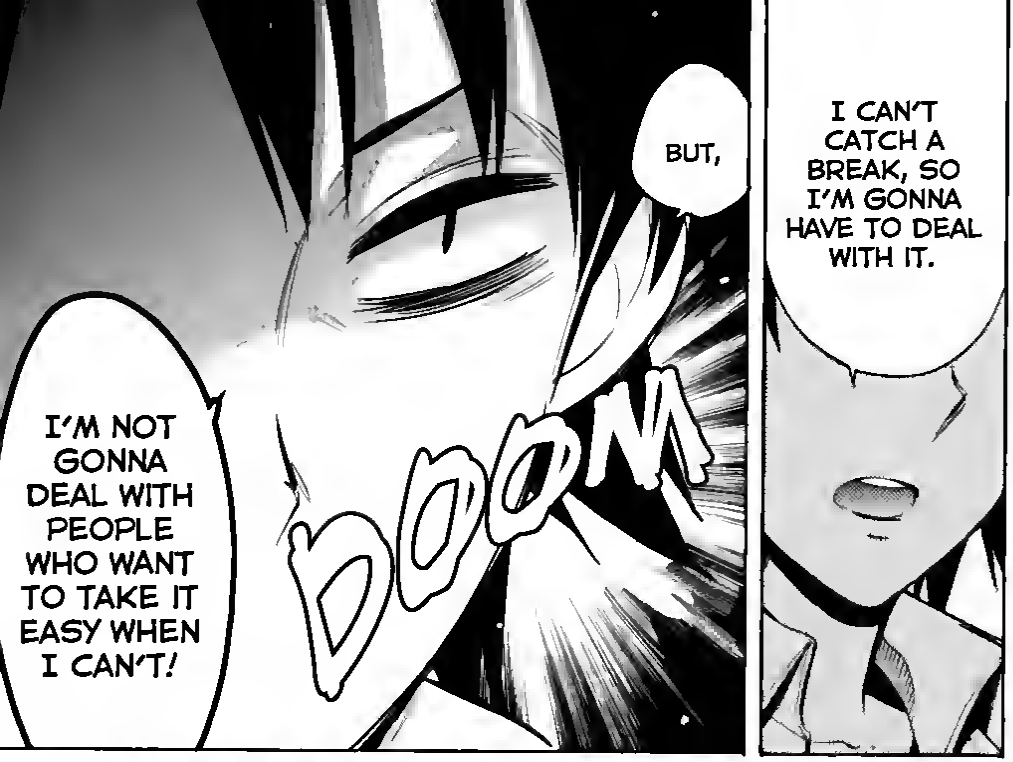
--BUT,
DOES THAT MEAN THAT WORKING BY YOURSELF IS THE WRONG THING TO DO?

THEY'RE WONDER FUL.
THEY RE INSPIRING.
THEY'RE FILLED WITH A BEAUTIFUL SENSE OF FELLOW-SHIP.

WHY MUST SOMEONE WHO HAS WORKED SO HARD BY THEMSELVES
HAVE TO BE CRITICIZED NO MATTER WHAT?
I WON'T STAND FOR THIS.
BUT--
RELYING ON OTHERS IS IMPORTANT, SURE.

BUT FOR SOME PEOPLE, RELYING ON OTHERS IS THE ONLY THING ON THEIR MINDS.
WHISPER
I THINK THAT GUY SAID SOMETHING...
GASP
WONDER WHAT HE SAID...
WHISPER

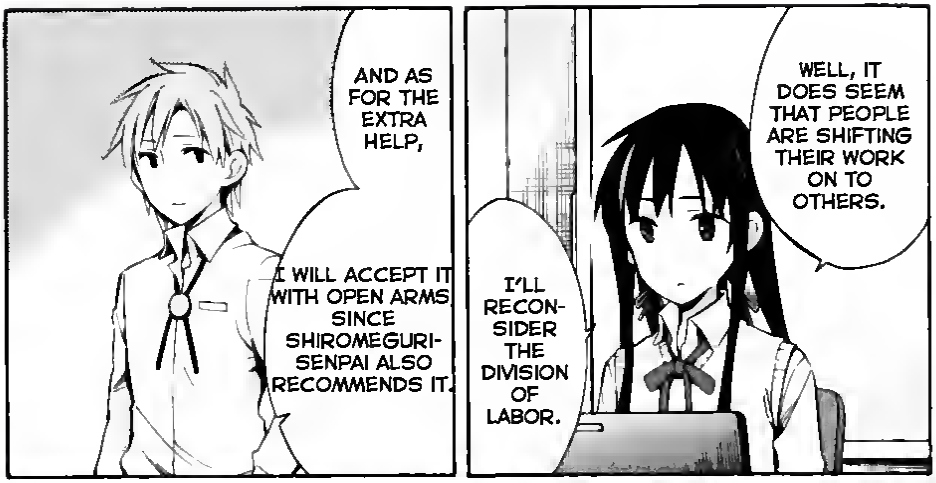
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, WELL... UM...
OH.
YEAH, I'M TALKING ABOUT THE GUYS WHO'RE FORCING THEIR WORK ON ME.


I'M NOT GONNA DEAL WITH PEOPLE WHO WANT TO TAKE IT EASY WHEN I CAN'T!
BOOM
BUT,
I CAN'T CATCH A BREAK, SO I'M GONNA HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT.

HOR-RIBLE!
YOU'RE
PFFT

SIGH

HEH
I'LL HELP YOU TOO.


AND AS FOR THE EXTRA HELP,
I WILL ACCEPT IT WITH OPEN ARMS SINCE SHIROMEGURI-SENPAI ALSO RECOMMENDS IT.
WELL, IT DOES SEEM THAT PEOPLE ARE SHIFTING THEIR WORK ON TO OTHERS.
I'LL RECON-SIDER THE DIVISION OF LABOR.

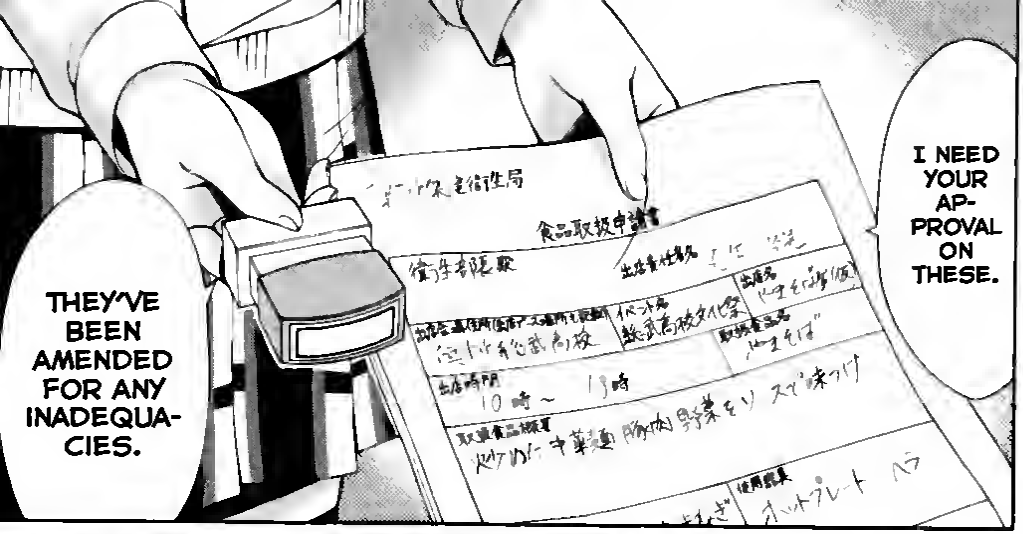
.....
...I'M SORRY.

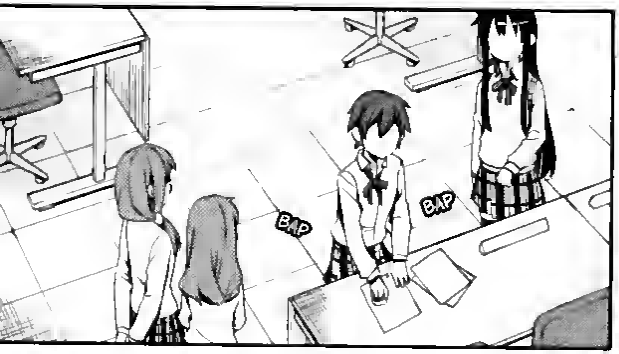
I JUST SIMPLY AND PURELY CANNOT STAND IT WHEN PEOPLE FORCE THINGS ON OTHERS JUST SO THEY CAN TAKE IT EASY.
I WASN'T REALLY TRYING TO STICK UP FOR YUKINOSHITA,
SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR HER TO APOLOGIZE.
COULD THAT APOLOGY HAVE BEEN INTENDED FOR ME?
COPY THESE PAPERS
FWP
FWP
THIS AIN'T SPELLED CORRECTLY.
WHERE ARE YOUR DOCUMENTS?
LET'S HANG IN THERE A LITTLE MORE.
ALL RIGHT,
CLAP
SLIDE

SORRY I'M LATE!
OH,
THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE, HAYAMA-KUN!

HM?
SAGAMI-SAN.

HEY.
WERE YOU TAKING CARE OF YOUR CLASS?
YEAH, I WAS!


I NEED YOUR AP-PROVAL ON THESE.
THEY'VE BEEN AMENDED FOR ANY INADEQUA-CIES.


BAP
BAP

Y'KNOW WHAT?
I'LL LET YOU USE THE STAMP, SO YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF.

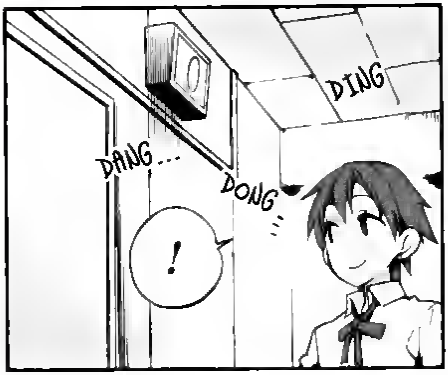
REALLY?
.....
THANKS.

BAP
THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL A PROXY.
C'MON.

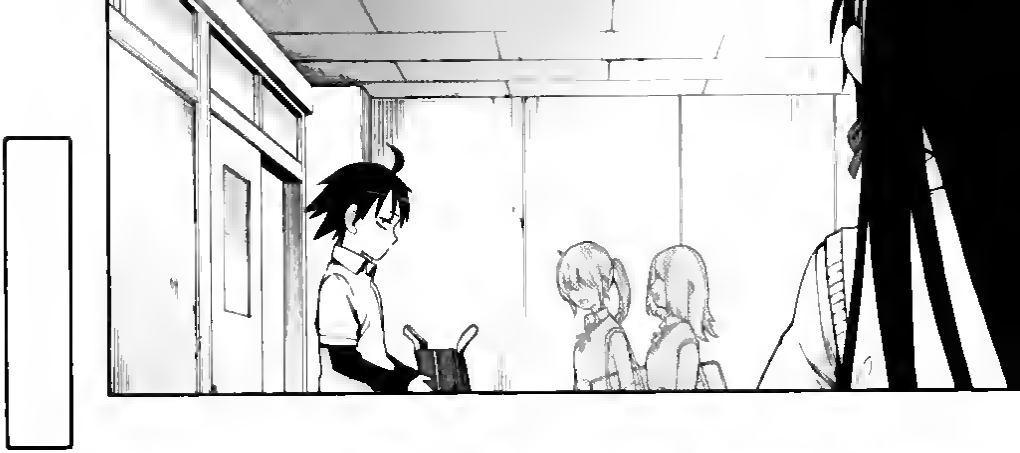
HEY, SAGAMI-SAN, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
HUH? BUT IT'S MORE CONVEN-IENT, RIGHT?
SUBSTANCE IS MORE IMPORTANT, NOT SO MUCH FORMALITIES.

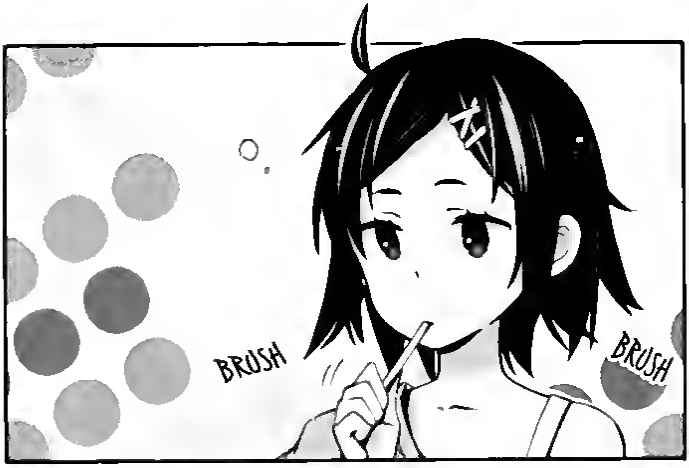
...THEN I WILL BE APPROVING PAPERS FROM NOW ON.

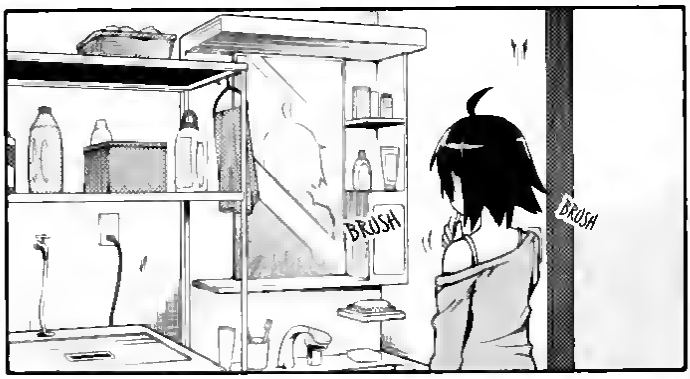
.....

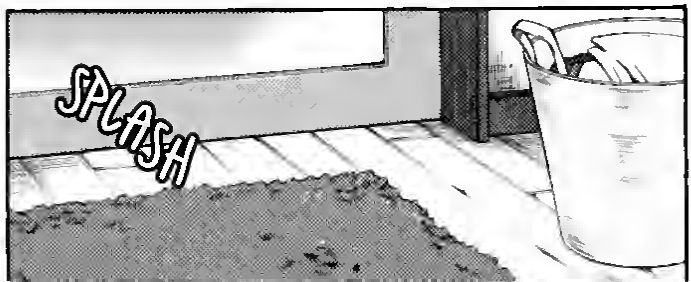

DING
DANG...
DONG
!

OKAY, GOOD WORK EVERYBODY!
GOOD WORK EVERYBODY!
TIME SURE FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN!
.....
.....




BRUSH
BRUSH

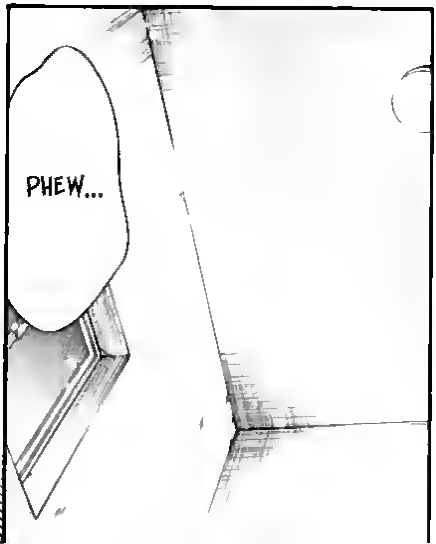

BRUSH
BRUSH


SPLASH

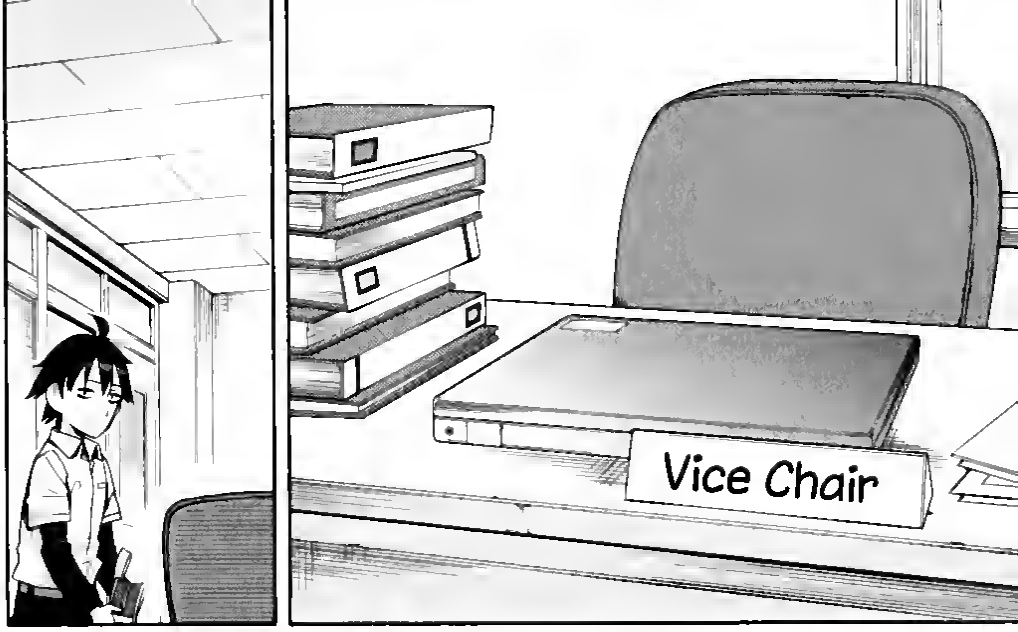
SLOSH
...SIGH...

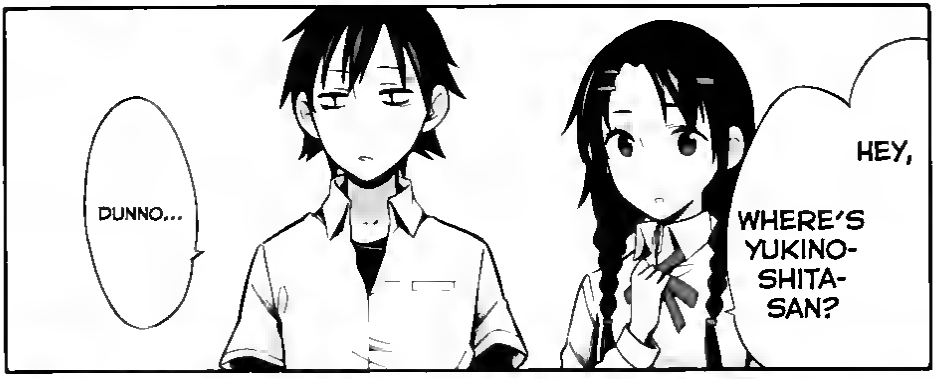
SWISH
.....

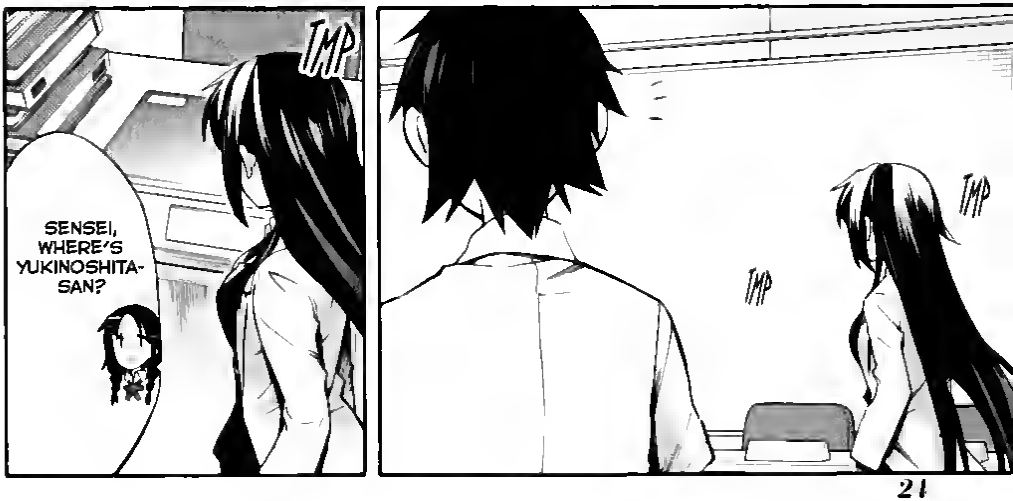
OH.
ONII-CHAN ACTUALLY SOUNDS LIKE HE'S WORN-OUT FOR ONCE.


PHEW...

THE NEXT DAY...


Vice Chair


HEY, WHERE'S YUKINO-SHITA-SAN?
DUNNO...


TMP
SENSEI, WHERE'S YUKINOSHITA-SAN?
TMP
TMP
TMP

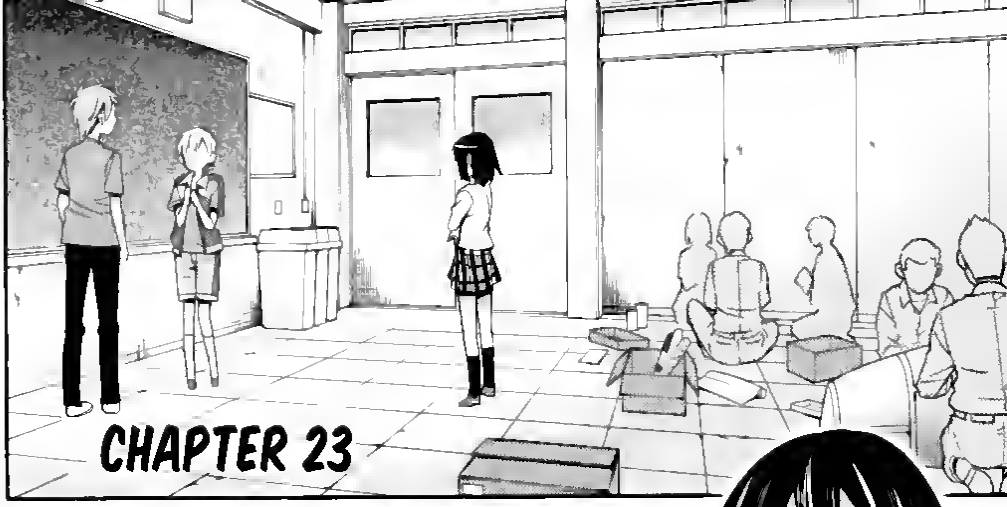
IS OUT SICK TODAY.
YUKINO-SHITA
MURMUR
!?

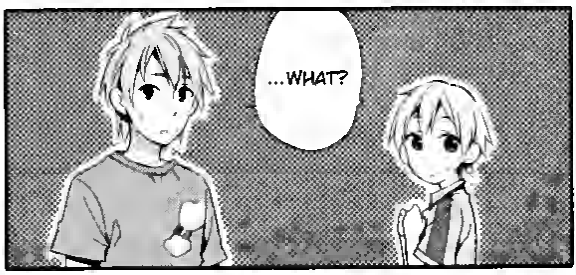
YUKINO HAD THE MINDSET OF A WORKA-HOLIC.
IT LOOKS LIKE I NEED TO TAKE SOME ENERGY DRINKS TO GET THROUGH ALL THIS—

HOT CHOCOLATE SCANS

TRANSLATOR: GDAFF PROOFREADER: ZEPHYRIAL CLEANER: PAGAN-MIN
REDRAWER: PAGAN-MIN TYPESETTER: THEORYOFNEKOMATA QC: GDAFF

START SMALL BEFORE THEY GROW BIG.
EVEN BAOBABS
BUT WHY WOULD YOU WANT A BAOBAB TO BE EATEN BY A SHEEP?
YOU
KNOW WHY--
NO——!!
GRAH


CHAPTER 23


...WHAT?

YOU DO KNOW WHAT BAOBABS ARE SUPPOSED TO REPRE-SENT, RIGHT?

THE PRINCE IS SUPPOSED TO LOOK AT THE PILOT WITH PUPPY-DOG EYES ALL EMBARRASSED-LIKE WHILE LEADING HIM ON!
FWIP
ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO IT ONCE MORE!
THE PILOT IS SUPPOSED TO TEASE THE PRINCE WHILE KNOWING THE PRINCE IS LEADING HIM ON!

GLEAM
I HOPE YOU DO!

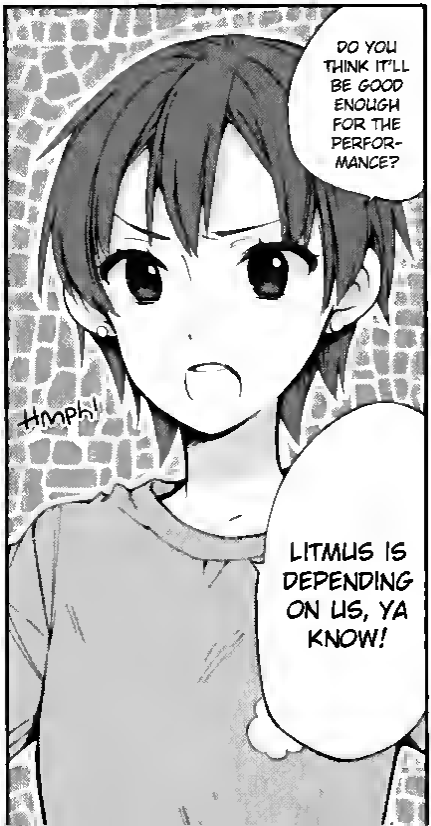
start small before they grow big.
...Even bao-babs
why would you want a baobab to be eaten by a sheep?
But--
You ...
know why.
BF FF!
PF FF

STEP
HEY, ACTUALLY WORK, GUYS.
GRR
WE ARE WORK-ING.

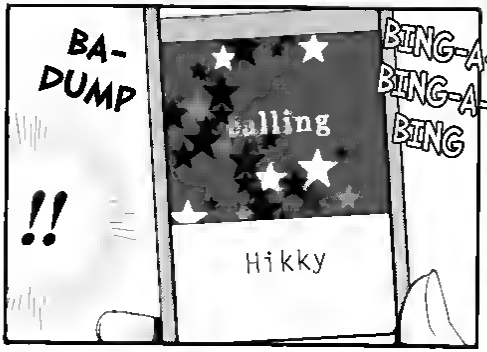
OKAY.
HOLD IT DOWN.

OH.
YOU'RE FINISHED WITH THE COS-TUMES?
LEMME SEE.
FLAP

.....
WOW, THIS IS GREAT!

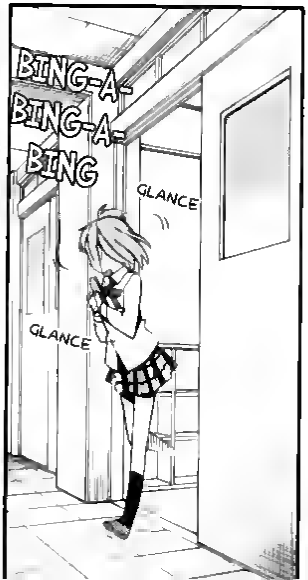

DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE PERFOR-MANCE?
Hmph!
LITMUS IS DEPENDING ON US, YA KNOW!

.....


BA-DUMP
!!
calling
Hikky
BING-A-BING-A-BING

?
CLICK
BING-A-BING-A-BING
BING-A-BING-A-BING

YEAH!
BEEP
...WHAT'S UP? WHY'RE YOU CALLING ME...?


BING-A-BING-A-BING
GLANCE
GLANCE

DID YOU KNOW THAT YUKINOSHITA'S TAKING THE DAY OFF?
...HUH. NO, I DIDN'T.
.....
HER PHYSICAL CONDITION ISN'T REALLY THE PROBLEM HERE...
BUT CONSIDERING HOW YUKINOSHITA'S BEEN ACTING LATELY, I'M SURE SHE'LL BE WORRIED ABOUT HER.
!
WELL IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S SICK.
...I'M GONNA GO CHECK ON HER.
I KNEW SHE'D SAY THAT.
I'M COMING TOO.
I'LL BE AT THE SCHOOL GATES.
OKAY.

GULP...
OH ...
.....
DING-DONG
WOW ...
100000M
MAYBE SHE'S NOT EVEN SICK.
THAT'D BE OKAY... BUT WHAT IF SHE'S SO SICK THAT SHE CAN'T MOVE...?

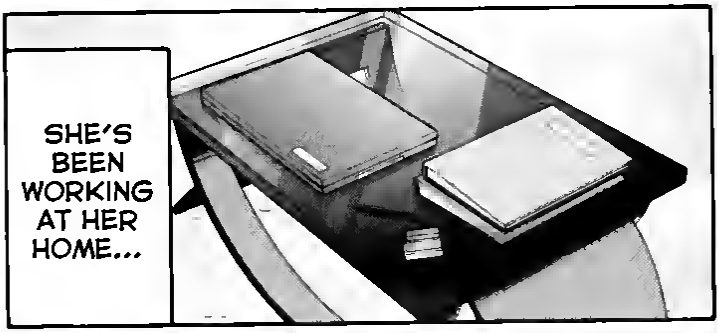
BZ BZ..
...HELLO?
!
YUKI-NON?
IT'S ME, YUI.
ARE YOU DOING FINE?

...YES.
I'M FINE, SO...
"SO" ... WHAT?
SO LEAVE? IS THAT WHAT SHE WANTS TO SAY?

JUST OPEN THE DOOR.
.....!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WE NEED TO TALK.

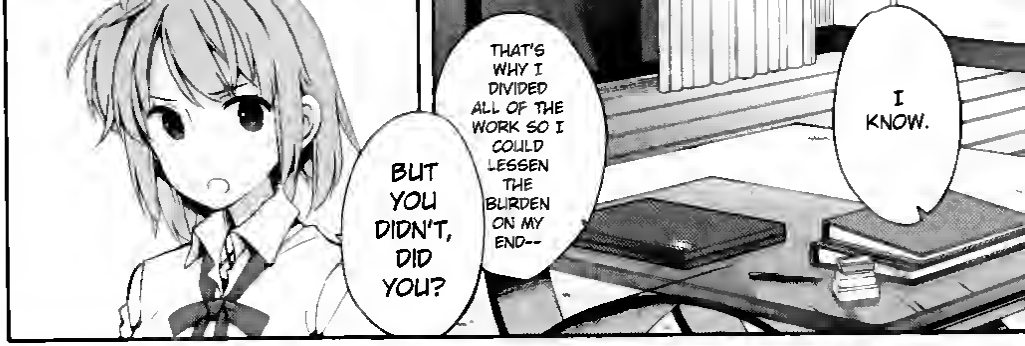
WHIRL
WEEEEN
.....
CREAK...
WEL-
COME.
COME
ON IN.
KER-
CHAK

TAKE A SEAT.


SHE'S BEEN WORKING AT HER HOME...

AH.
UM...
SO,
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

I HEARD THAT YOU WERE TAKING THE DAY OFF, SO I WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU WERE OKAY OR NOT.
IT'S JUST ONE DAY OFF. YOU'RE EXAGGER-ATING.
AREN'T YOU, LIKE, REALLY TIRED?
YOU STILL LOOK A LI'L PALE.
I WAS ONLY A BIT TIRED, BUT THAT
--ISN'T A PROB-LEM.
.....
ISN'T THAT THE PROBLEM, ACTUALLY?
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ALL THE WORK BY YOURSELF, YA KNOW.


I KNOW.
THAT'S WHY I DIVIDED ALL OF THE WORK SO I COULD LESSEN THE BURDEN ON MY END--
BUT YOU DIDN'T, DID YOU?

I'M ACTU-ALLY KINDA MAD AT YOU.
.....!
AND I'M MAD AT YOU TOO, HIKKY.
YOU TOLD ME YOU'D HELP HER OUT WHENEVER SHE WAS IN TROUBLE.

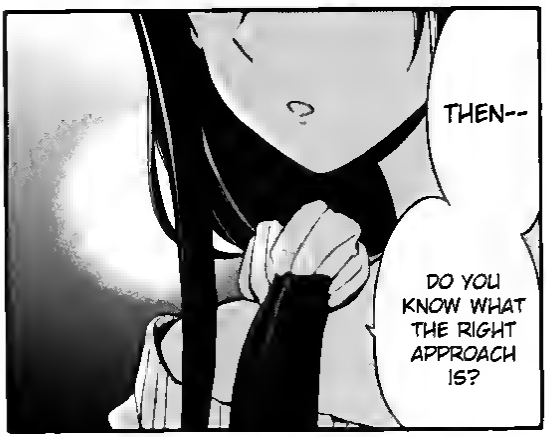
HE IS HELPING ME ENOUGH BY FULFILLING HIS ROLE IN THE HISTORIAN DEPARTMENT.
BUT--
IT'S FINE. WE STILL HAVE A GOOD AMOUNT OF TIME LEFT, AND I'VE BEEN CONTINUING MY TASKS AT HOME, SO THERE WON'T BE ANY SUBSTANTIAL LAG.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT A THING, YUIGAHAMA-SAN.
.....
I DON'T THINK THAT'S RIGHT.
IS THAT ... WHAT YOU THINK?
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?
RELYING ON OTHERS.
EVERYONE HELPING ONE ANOTHER.
.....
TO HAVE PEOPLE SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IS GENERALLY THE RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION. NOTHING COULD BE BETTER.

BUT THAT'S IDEAL-ISTIC.
THERE'S ALWAYS GONNA BE SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO'LL GET THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.
THAT'S WHY I WON'T TELL YOU TO RELY ON OTHERS.

I SEE...

BUT--


THEN--
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT APPROACH IS?

YOU'RE AP-PROACH-ING THIS THE WRONG WAY.

NO, I DON'T.
BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN DOING THINGS NOW IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU'D BEEN DOING BEFORE.

--
ACHOO!
.....
I'M SORRY.
I'LL MAKE YOU SOME TEA.
GASP
Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO. I CAN DO IT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY CONDITION. I'M MUCH BETTER NOW THAT I'VE RESTED.
YOUR CONDI-TION,
HUH?

...UM, YUKINON.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE OR "EVERYONE"... RELY ON US.
YOU SHOULD RELY ON ME AND HIKKY.

.....
TMP
TMP
I DUNNO IF I, UH, CAN DO ANYTHING, BUT...
...BUT HIKKY CAN--
BLACK TEA SOUNDS GOOD.
.....
FOO
FOO
CHAK
I'M GONNA GO.
CHAK
EH?!
I-I'LL GO TOO.
GLUG

REACH
BA-DUMP
!
.....
YUIGA-HAMA-SAN.
Y-YEAH.
UM ...
IT'S DIFFICULT FOR ME RIGHT NOW... BUT SOMEDAY, I WILL RELY ON YOU.
SO, THANK YOU...

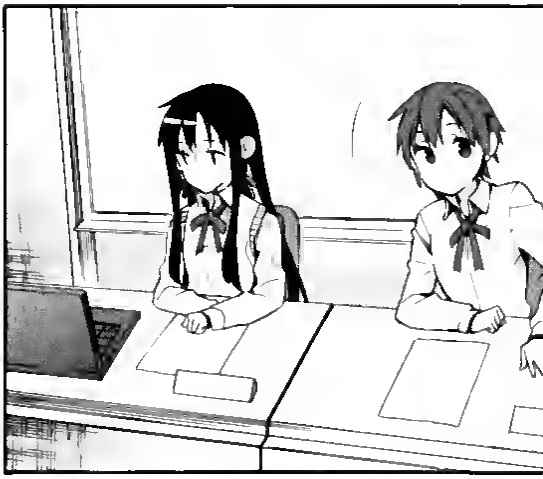
BUT,
I NEED SOME TIME TO THINK...
YUKI NON ...
.....!
YUIGAHAMA DID WHAT SHE THOUGHT WAS RIGHT.
AND SHE DID IT IN THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD'VE DONE IT.
EH?!
WAIT!
SHE'S ALL YOURS.
KER-CHAK
... YUIGA-HAMA.

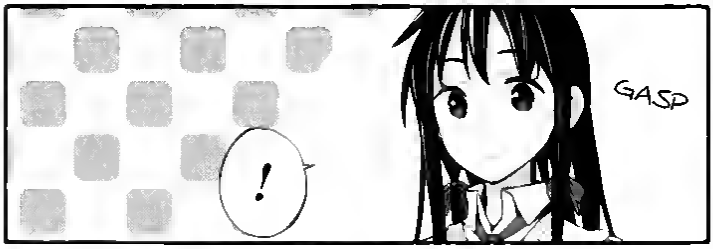
BUT,
I NEED SOME TIME TO THINK...
YUKI NON ...
.....!
YUIGAHAMA DID WHAT SHE THOUGHT WAS RIGHT.
AND SHE DID IT IN THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD'VE DONE IT.
EH?!
WAIT!
SHE'S ALL YOURS.
KER-CHAK
... YUIGA-HAMA.

I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT IT REALLY MEANS--
TO CHANGE THE WORLD.
BUT IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
THAT'S WHY I WILL TAKE CARE OF SOLVING THE PROBLEM.
THE IDEA THAT YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD BY CHANGING YOURSELF IS A LIE.
PEOPLE ONLY TELL YOU THAT SO THEY CAN FORCE YOU TO DO WHATEVER THEY TELL YOU TO DO.

YAK
HUH? REALLY?
CONFERENCE ROOM
AHAHA!
YAK
Yawn
A HA HA HA
THAT'S SO FUNNY!
SAGAMI-SAN, EVERYONE'S SEATED.
AH. RIGHT.
.....

.....




GASP
!

YUKINO-SHITA-SAN?
...EH?

TODAY, WE WILL DECIDE OUR SLOGAN FOR THE FESTIVAL.
...NOW THEN, LET'S BEGIN OUR MEET-ING.
PLEASE WRITE DOWN YOUR OWN IDEAS FOR SLOGANS.

THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
SQUEAK
FRIENDSHIP. EFFORT. VICTORY
BAM
THAT'S A RIP-OFF FROM THAT JUUMANGOKU MANJU BUN COMMERCIAL. PLUS, THAT'S A SAITAMA THING. THEY DON'T ACCEPT THAT HERE IN CHIBA.
FUN! TRULY FUN! ~YOU CAN HEAR THE SOUND OF THE MORNING BREEZE: SOUBU HIGH SCHOOL CULTURAL FESTIVAL~
BAM
SQUEAK SQUEAK
OH.
THAT ONE LOOKS GOOD.
I THINK I KNOW WHO WROTE THAT ONE...
WHOLEHEARTEDLY
WOW.

"ONE FOR ALL".
I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.
ONE FOR ALL
MAKING SOMEONE SHOULDER ALL THE PAIN TILL THEY CAN'T BEAR IT ANYMORE.
ONE FOR ALL.
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN SEEING THAT HAPPEN A LOT LATELY.
HAH!
YEAH, SOUNDS SIMPLE, ALRIGHT.
HUH?
AL-RIGHT,
THIS IS THE LAST ONE.
THIS IS THE ONE I DID.
HIKI-GAYA... YOU...

BONDS
~HELPING ONE ANOTHER:
A SCHOOL FESTIVAL~
KABOOM!
WOW...
...HEY.
D'YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THIS?
MURMUR
BONDS
~HELPING ONE ANOTHER:
A SCHOOL FESTIVAL~
MURMUR

D'YOU WANNA SAY SOME-THING?
EH, NO.
HUHHH, WELL.
G-R-R-R
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN WHY DON'T YOU MAKE YOUR OWN?
THIS IS THE MOST IRRITATING REACTION WHEN TALKING TO SOME-ONE
STOPPING YOURSELF FROM SAYING SOMETHING WHILE LOOKING LIKE YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF THINGS TO SAY
EH...
NOT REALLY.
"MAN"
LOOK CLOSELY AND YOU'LL FIND SOME-ONE SLACK-ING OFF: A SCHOOL FESTIVAL
Man
~Look closely and you'll find someone slacking off: A School Festival~
ALL RIGHT ...
SQUEAK SQUEAK
FLAP

THUMP
AHA HAHA HAHA HAHA!
I CAN'T! MY SIDES!
... HARUNO, STOP LAUGH-ING.
OH MY GOD! HEE HEE!
YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
HIKI-GAYA.
EX-PLAIN.
Hee...
YEAH, IF IT'S FUNNY, IT'S GOOD IN MY BOOK.
AW.
I THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT.

WELL,
YOU KNOW HOW THE CHARACTER OF "MAN" (人) LOOKS LIKE TWO ARMS SUPPORTING EACH OTHER? WELL, I THINK IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF 'EM'S LEANING ON THE OTHER.
I MEAN, THINKING THAT IT'S GOOD FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THE DIRTY WORK FOR 'EM; I THINK THAT'S PROBABLY THE MAIN IDEA FOR THE CHARACTER.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE SUITABLE TO USE THE CHARACTER FOR THIS FESTIVAL.
ACTUALLY, THE ENTIRE CULTURAL FESTIVAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
WELL, ME, DEFINITELY. I'M BEING FORCED TO WORK LIKE A SLAVE.
IN FACT, I'VE GOT OTHER PEOPLE PUSHING SOME OF THEIR WORK ON ME.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE DOING ALL THE DIRTY WORK, BUT WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I DON'T REALLY GET IT THOUGH, SINCE I'VE NEVER BEEN HELPED.
BUT HEY, MAYBE THIS IS WHAT THE CHAIRWOMAN'S GOT IN MIND WITH HER "HELP ONE ANOTHER" SLOGAN.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
Kh...
.....
Kh...
.....
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR...
--HIKI-GAYA-KUN.
GLARE
... PHEW.

RE-
JEC
TED。
……！

SAGAMI-SAN, WE SHOULD CALL IT A DAY.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'LL GET A GOOD SLOGAN AT THIS RATE.
OH, BUT...
SPENDING THE REST OF THE DAY WITH THIS WOULD BE FOOLISH.
LET'S HAVE EVERY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THINK OF A SLOGAN TOMORROW.
ALSO, WE SHOULD HAVE EVERY MEMBER PARTICIPATE FOR THE REST OF OUR AGENDA SO WE CAN GET CAUGHT UP.
SOUNDS GOOD?
Y... YEAH.
ALRIGHT, EVERYONE, MAKE SURE TO COME IN HERE TOMORROW.
GOOD WORK TODAY.
THE HELL WAS THAT?
NOW WE ALL HAVE TO WORK.
THAT GUY JUST WANTS TO TAKE IT EASY.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
TMP
TMP
WITH WHAT?
I THINK IT'S BEST FOR YOU TO CLEAR THAT MISUNDER-STANDING.
I CAN'T CLEAR MISUNDER-STANDINGS.
WHEN THERE'S A PROBLEM I CAN'T SOLVE, IT STOPS BEING MY PROBLEM.

YOU MAKE EXCUSES ON TRIVIAL MATTERS, BUT NEVER WHEN IT REALLY MATTERS.
AND WHETHER THAT'S RIGHT OR A MISUNDER-STANDING ON ITS OWN, THAT WILL ALWAYS BE MY FINAL ANSWER.
THERE'S NO POINT IN EXCUSES ANYWAY.
PEOPLE JUST DECIDE WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO THEM ON THEIR OWN.
THEN ...
EXCUSES ARE MEAN-INGLESS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT MAY ACTUALLY BE TRUE.

.....

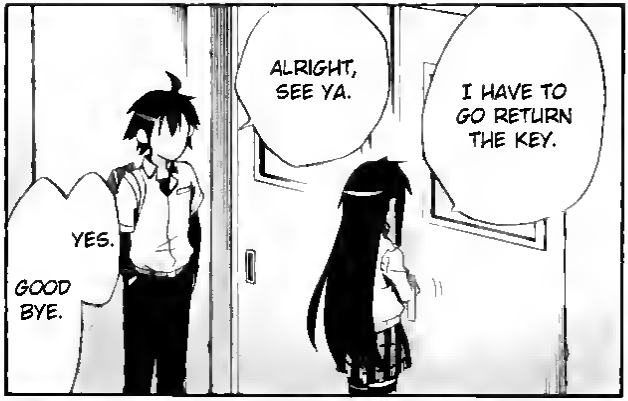
I MUST RECONSIDER THINGS ONCE MORE.

DON'T PUSH IT.
PEOPLE DON'T CHANGE THAT EASILY, YOU KNOW?
YOUR REFUSAL TO CHANGE IS ABSOLUTELY ASTOUNDING
ESPECIALLY YOU, SINCE YOU WERE A STRANGE BOY TO BEGIN WITH.

THAT ONE SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM A THESAURUS.
IT WAS BETTER THAN YOURS.
ANYWAY, WHAT WAS THAT SLOGAN BACK THERE? THAT WAS COMPLETELY TASTELESS.

I START TO THINK THAT THE NOTION OF FORCING CHANGE ON OTHER PEOPLE IS RIDICULOUS.
HA.
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU,

.....


I HAVE TO GO RETURN THE KEY.
ALRIGHT, SEE YA.
YES.
GOOD BYE.

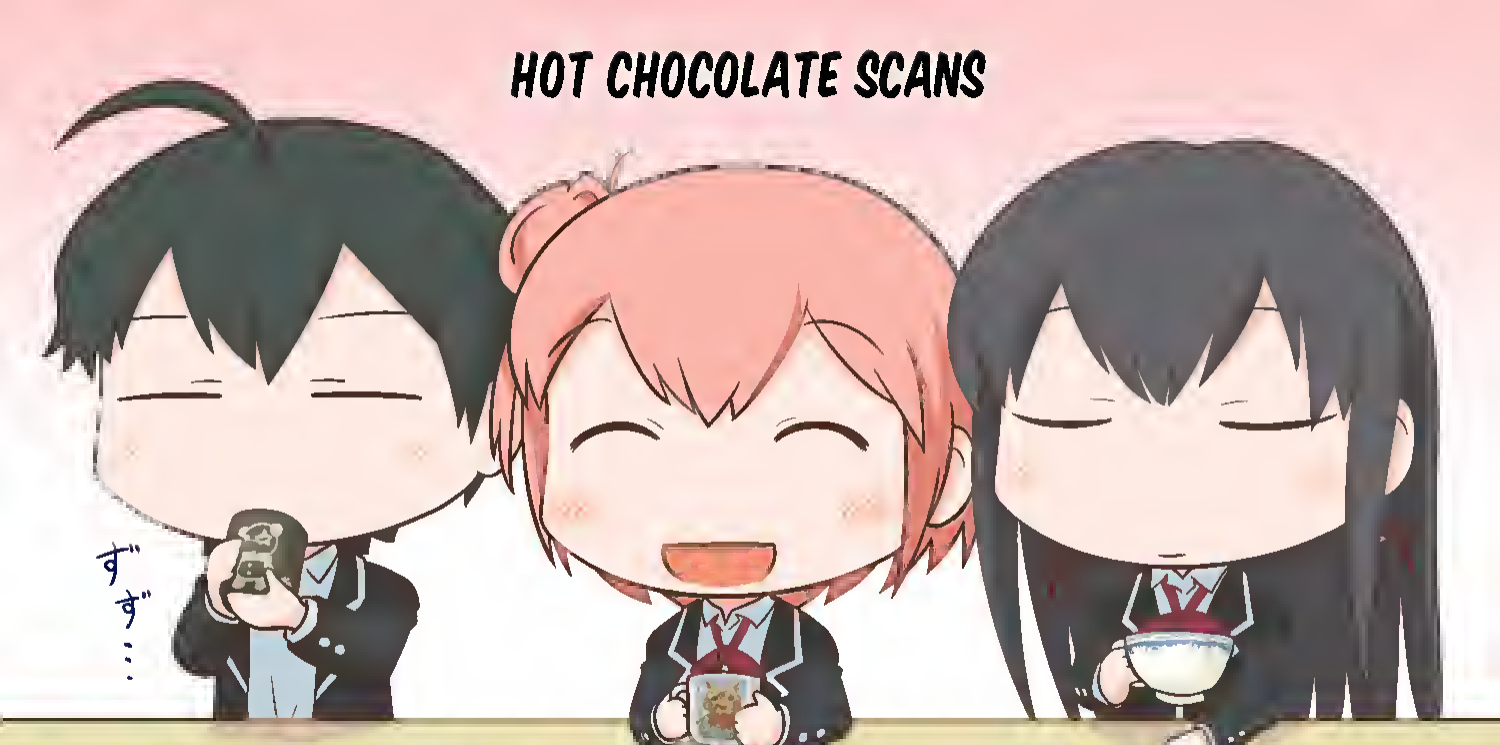
?

.....

...SEE YOU TOMORROW.

SEE YOU TOMORROW.
.....

Hee Hee!
Call History
Hikky
000-0000-



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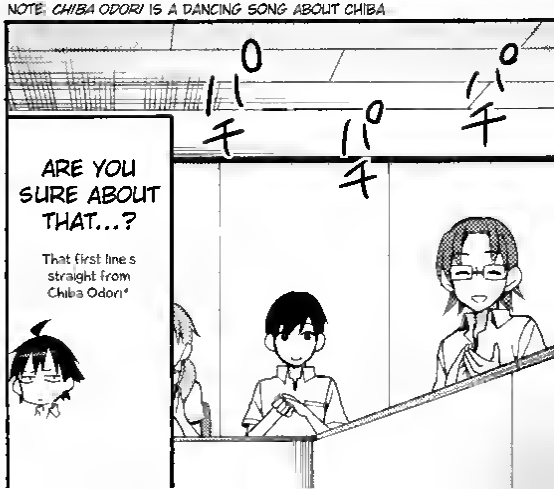
CHAPTER 24

Chiba's Specialties:
Festivals and Dancing!
We're all fools,
so let's dance and
sing a song
WILL BE THE SLOGAN FOR THIS YEAR'S CULTURAL FESTIVAL.

NOTE: *CHIBA ODORI* IS A DANCING SONG ABOUT CHIBA



SAGAMI-SAN.
はっ
WE SHOULD START USING THE SLOGAN AS A PART OF OUR ADVERTISE-MENTS.
OH.
YEAH.
... ALRIGHT,
PLEASE GET STARTED ON THE ADVERTISE-MENTS.
Hey, guys!
Posters, on the double!
Got it!
Vice-Chair! The test update for the homepage is complete!
UNDER-STOOD.

SAGAMI -SAN, CONFIRM.
EH?
OH,
YEAH.
OK
PLEASE UPLOAD IT TO THE MAIN SERVER.
GOT IT!
……
THE COMMITTEE IS FLOWING WITH ENTHUSI-ASM.
カチ
カチ

AS FOR ME, I WAS BEING TREATED LIKE TRASH. THEY EITHER TALK BAD ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK OR COMPLETELY IGNORE ME.
But this isn't bullying. There's no bullying in this fine establishment
YOU COULD FIND MANY MEMBERS SHARING OPINIONS WITH EACH OTHER.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THESE WERE THE SAME MEMBERS FROM BEFORE.
LATELY, THERE'S BEEN MORE PEOPLE GIVING ME PAPERS WITHOUT ACTUALLY TELLING ME WHAT TO DO WITH THEM.
WELL, I GUESS BEING A BOSS MEANS HAVING THE FREEDOM TO ACT LIKE A JERK TO YOUR LACKEYS.
……
すた
すた
すた
ぽん

HI THERE.
ARE YOU WORKING HARD?
AS YOU CAN SEE.
LEMME SEE.
TOO CLOSE ...
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE WORKING HARD.
WHY? I TOTALLY AM.
I MEAN,
YOU DIDN'T PUT YOUR OWN ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE RECORDS, RIGHT?
.....

.....
What brings a group together like none other~?
TIME FOR A QUIZ.
THE CORRECT ANSWER IS...
Oh, don't pretend you don't know.
A COLD-HEARTED TYRANT?
AN ENEMY.
GET OFF MY BACK.
THIS ENEMY WAS PRETTY WIMPY, THOUGH.

CONFLICT IS NECESSARY SO PEOPLE CAN CONTINUE DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY!
IF THE ENEMY SLACKS OFF, THE GROUP WON'T MATURE.
WELL, IF A VILLAIN LIKE YOU TRIES TO STIR UP SOME CONFLICT, YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO WILL TRY TO RESIST YOU.
YOU ARE SO ANNOY-ING.
THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO MATURE IS TO HAVE AN ENEMY, HUH?
.....
THEN THAT MUST MEAN ...

HEY.
DO YOU ANTAGONIZE YUKINOSHITA TO--
I DON'T LIKE KIDS
WHO ARE QUICK ON THE UPTAKE.

You
HAVE WORK TO DO.

WANT ME TO HELP?
YOU'D JUST GET IN THE WAY. YOU CAN LEAVE.

That's mean!
You're so mean, Yukino-chan!

DOCUMENT THAT THE SLOGAN HAS BEEN DECIDED.
AND RECORD OUR PROCEEDINGS... WHICH YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW.
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, NOTIFY THE ORGANIZATIONS OF OUR SLOGAN.
HEY, WAIT. YOU CLEARLY PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO MY TASKS.
IT'S NOT HARD TO PLAN AHEAD. PROPER KNOWLEDGE LEADS TO PROPER ACTIONS.

IT'S GOOD TO BE PRODUCTIVE!
Sigh...
Gimme half of your papers, Hikigaya-kun.
Well, I've got nothing else better to do, so I'm gonna help you anyway.
HM? HEH HEH...
IF YOU'RE SO DESPERATE TO DO SOMETHING, THEN GO REVIEW OUR FINANCES.
OKAY ♪
AHH!
THIS IS HOW A COMMITTEE'S GOTTA BE!

AND NOW, IT'S TIME FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
YUK-INOSHITA REPORT-ING TO ALL MEMBERS.
WE ARE ON TIME. REPORT ANY DELAYS IMMEDIATELY.
THREE MINUTES TO CURTAINS.
THREE MINUTES TO CURTAINS.
LIGHTS, ALL CLEAR.
P.A. SYSTEM, ALL CLEAR.

GREEN ROOM, THE CAST MEMBERS ARE BEING RUSHED ON THEIR PREPARATIONS.
BUT THEY'LL PROBABLY MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE PERFORMANCE.
UNDERSTOOD.
ALL MEMBERS REMAIN ON STANDBY UNTIL YOUR CUES.
--10 SECONDS.
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

FES-
TI-
VALS!
Chiba's specialties: dancing and—
SING A SONG!
We're all fools, so let's dance and—
SINCE WHEN WAS THERE WAS A CALL AND RESPONSE TO THAT SONG?
Sing along!!
Are you ready for this festival?!!
Hey, you guys!

P.A. SYSTEM, SONG WILL BE PLAYING SHORTLY.
CHAIR SAGAMI IS ON STANDBY.
UNDER-STOOD.
WE'LL HAVE A FEW WORDS FROM OUR FESTIVAL'S CHAIRWOMAN.
AND NOW...

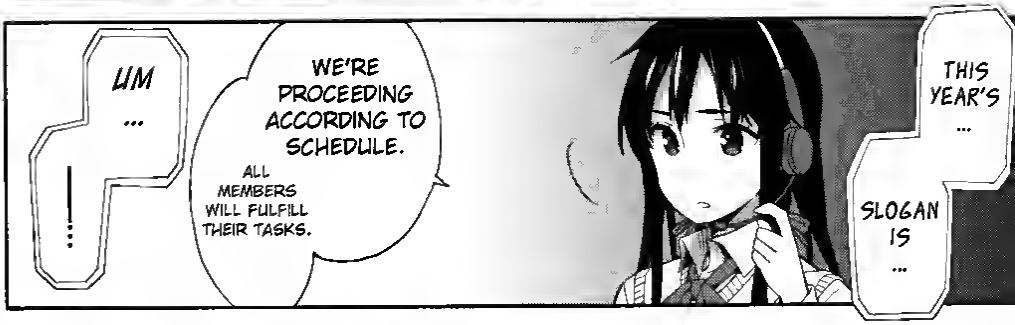
HELLO
AUDIO FEED-BACK...
WHAT IMPEC-CABLE TIMING.

OKAY!
WE'RE GONNA DO THIS OVER! THE FLOOR'S YOURS, CHAIRWOMAN!
……
ニヤ
ニヤ
スイッ
ポロッ
Oh!
あはは
はは

あはは
はは
がんばれー？
……
あはは
あはは
ガヤ
あはは
ガヤ
WE'RE RUNNING BEHIND SCHEDULE...
HIKIGAYA -KUN
MAKE YOUR SIGNAL.
I AM, BUT SHE AIN'T LOOKING AT ME.
くるくる

REALLY?
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE PICKED YOU.
ARE YOU TAKING A JAB AT MY INABILITY TO STANDOUT?
OH, I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
SO WHERE ARE YOU? IN THE AUDIENCE?
YEP, THAT'S A JAB, ALL RIGHT. I BET YOU CAN SEE ME, TOO.
UM...
VICE-CHAIR.
WE CAN ALL HEAR YOU...
.....
.....

SAGAMI ...
MINAMI ...
Soubu High School Cultural Festival!!
Chika Spectacular Dancing and Festival!
We're all fools, so let's dance and Sing a Song!!
I'M THE CHAIR-WOMAN ...
OF THIS CULTURAL FESTI-VAL...

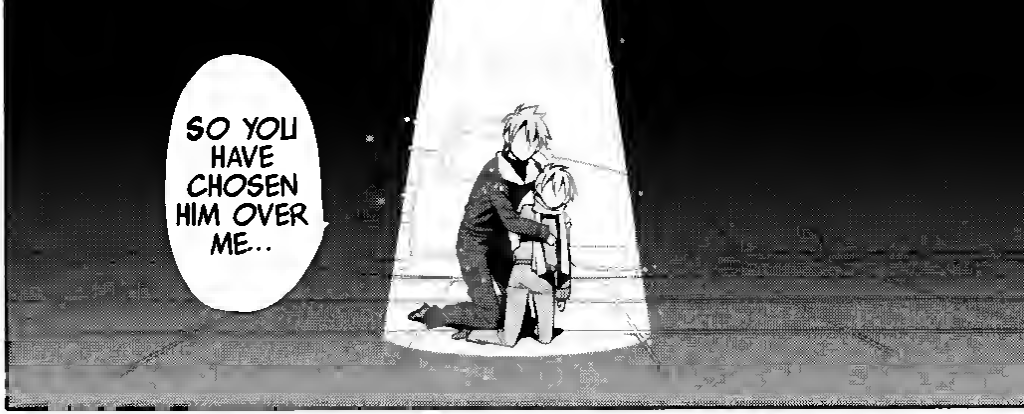


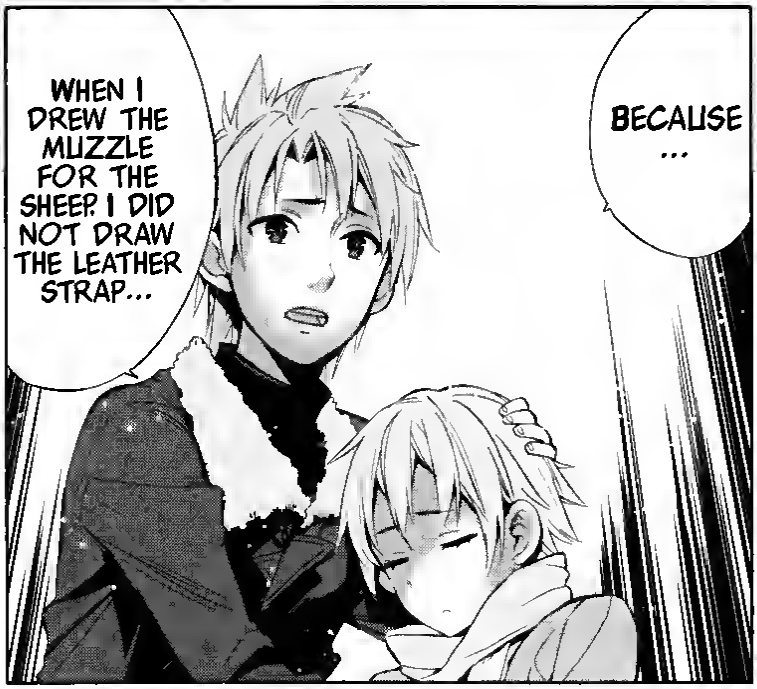
NOTE: THESE LINES ARE BASED OFF THE ORIGINAL MY LITTLE PRINCE STORY.
THANKS, FFFANSUBS.

I OUGHT NOT TO HAVE LISTENED TO HIM...
HE CAST HIS FRAGRANCE AND RADIANCE OVER ME...
YOU
WERE TOO YOUNG
TO KNOW HOW TO LOVE HIM.

WAIT.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE PRINCE?
TONIGHT -YOU KNOW DO NOT COME.
NO. BUT WHY NOT?
きゃあぁぁっ
I SAID. I SHALL NOT LEAVE YOU.

I SHALL NOT LEAVE YOU!
IT WAS WRONG OF YOU TO COME. YOU WILL SUFFER.
THIS IS ODD.
THE LINES FROM THE BOOK ARE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE BL NOW.
LET ME GO ON BY MYSELF!
HERE IT IS!
I
SHAL L NOT LEAVE YOU!
BLARGH!
THIS PERSON'S HOPELESS...
IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING FAST...


SO YOU HAVE CHOSEN HIM OVER ME...


WHEN I DREW THE MUZZLE FOR THE SHEEP, I DID NOT DRAW THE LEATHER STRAP...
BECAUSE...

BUT IT IS WELL.
I SHALL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON.

SHEEP...
SHEEP...

パチパチ

パチパチ
パチ

ON BREAK
HEY.
ガサッ
HOW'D IT GO?
GOOD, I GUESS.
THERE WAS A LOT OF APPLAUSE.

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO.
NOT THAT I WOULD KNOW.
WELL GREAT, 'CAUSE WE ALL WORKED REALLY HARD FOR IT.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE MANY CHANCES TO CHECK OUT OUR CLASSROOM.
WELL, YOU'RE A PART OF THE COMMIT-TEE.
Let me in, man!
What's taking so long?
Are you kidding me?
HM?
WHOA, THAT'S NOT GOOD.
IT MIGHT GET OUT OF HAND.

OKAY, GUYS.
DO YOUR THING.

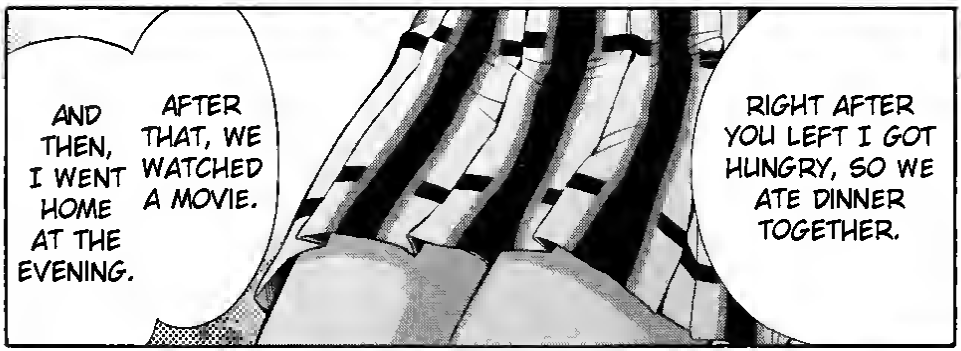
THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE!

THIS IS WHERE THE LINE STARTS!

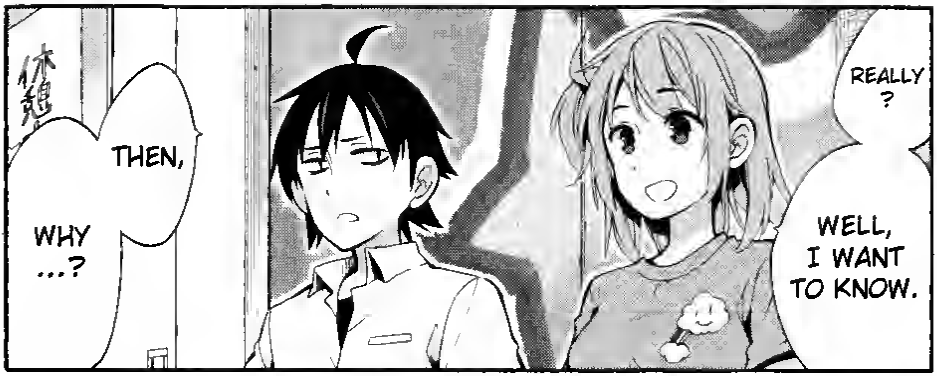
WHERE IS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF CLASS E?

ちら
YUKI-NON'S SO COOL...
SHE LOOKS A LITTLE BETTER.
YEAH ...
.....
HEY, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
HM? WHAT?
WHEN YOU WERE IN YUKINOSHITA'S HOUSE,
DID YOU TALK ABOUT ANY-THING?
.....

WHAT?
NOT REALLY.
.....


AND THEN, I WENT HOME AT THE EVENING.
AFTER THAT, WE WATCHED A MOVIE.
RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT I GOT HUNGRY, SO WE ATE DINNER TOGETHER.

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO KNOW
SO
WE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT ANYTHING THAT WAS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW.


休憩
THEN, WHY ...?
REALLY?
WELL, I WANT TO KNOW.

SO ...
I'LL WAIT.

I DECIDED TO WAIT FOR YUKINON.
SHE'S PROBABLY LOOKING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO US ABOUT IT.

WELL,
I GUESS THERE'S NO POINT IN WAITING IF NOTHING'S GONNA HAPPEN.
THAT'S NOT IT.

BUT IF WAITING DOESN'T HELP, THEN I WON'T WAIT.
HM?

I WON'T WAIT BECAUSE I'LL TAKE THE INITIATIVE.
!
OH, I FORGOT.
IT'S NOT LUNCH YET, RIGHT?
YEAH.
REALLY.
.....
REALLY ...?

NOTE: HONEY TOAST IS THICK TOAST WITH HONEY. USUALLY TOPPED WITH FRUIT OR ICE CREAM.
IT'S HONEY TOAST*!
HERE!
IT DOESN'T LOOK THAT WEIRD.
That class over there was selling them
WOW...
Everyone's favorite thing to eat at Karaoke Pa**la
IT'S GREAT!
MN!
THIS IS JUST BREAD.
THEY COULD'VE AT LEAST TRIED TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE ACTUAL TOAST.
THESE ARE JUST SOLID CHUNKS OF BREAD.

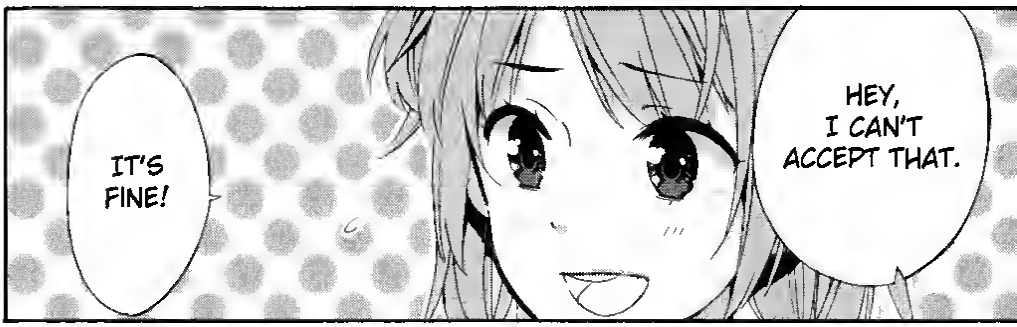
MOST OF THE BREAD IS THICK.
IT'S LIKE SOME-ONE PLAYED A TRICK ON ME.
THIS BREAD IS HARD... THERE'S NOT EVEN THAT MUCH HONEY.

YOU JUST *HAD* TO GET THE LOAF WITH ALL THE CREAM, DIDN'T YOU?
SINCE WHEN DID HONEY TOAST NEED TO HAVE CREAM ON IT?
THE CREAM IS SO GOOD!

WELL ...
IT'S STILL GOOD.
I GUESS ?

HOW MUCH DID IT COST YOU?
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY 'BOUT IT.

AH, I'M SO FULL!


HEY, I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT.
IT'S FINE!

I like being supported, but I don't like receiving charity!
I don't even know what that means!

THEN NEXT TIME, YOU CAN TREAT ME TO SOME HONEY TOAST.

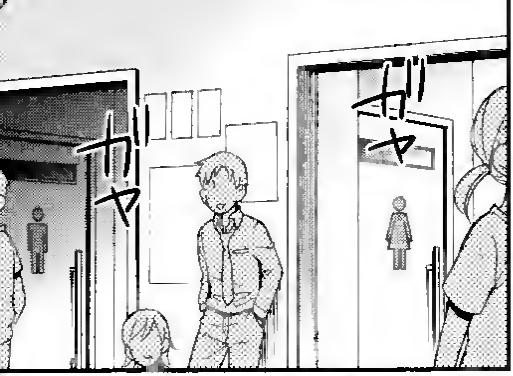
YOU'VE EVEN DECIDED THE PLACE...?
I KNOW WHERE THIS IS GOING...
FROM THE PA**LA AT CHIBA.
!

.....

CAN IT BE SOMETHING DIFFERENT?
WELL,

SURE.
SO, WHAT DAY WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU?
UH...

U-UM, I'M SORRY.
GIVE ME SOME TIME TO THINK...
.....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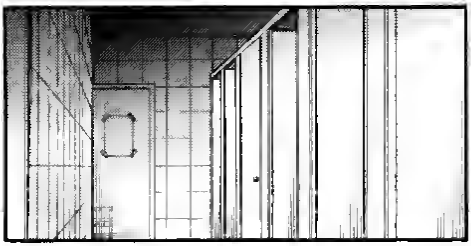

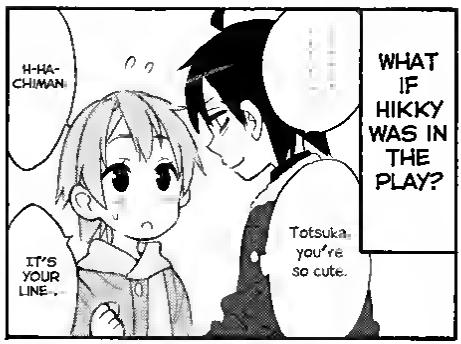
WHAT IF HIKKY WAS IN THE PLAY?
Totsuka, you're so cute.
H-HA-CHIMAN.
IT'S YOUR LINE...

HOT CHOCOLATE SCANS

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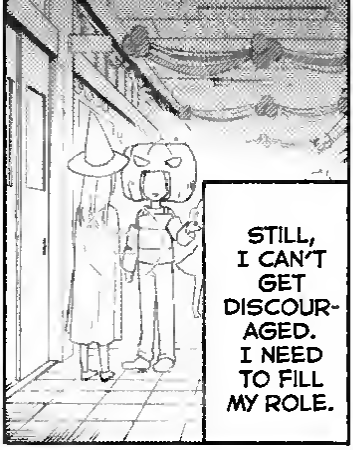
--GDAFF, HEAO TRANSLATOR
I'M HAVING TO WORK ON EIGHT PROJECTS WHILE I HAVE COLLEGE AND MY JOB TO WORRY ABOUT!
LOOK, THE BOTTOM LINE IS--
THERE NEEDS TO BE SOME TRANSLATORS WHO CAN HELP ME WITH SOME OF MY PROJECTS!
WE NEED MORE TRANS-LATORS!
THAT'S CRAZY TALK!
NO!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST DROP SOME OF YOUR PROJ-ECTS?
--ZEPHYRIAL, PROOFREAOER, LEAOER

IF THERE'S ANYONE WILLING TO TRANSLATE THE FOLLOWING MANGAS--OREGAIRU MONOLOGUE, MONDAIJI, HIRAHEISHI-- YOUR HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED! --GDAFF

Chapter 25
DOGS
CATS
YOU'LL FIND THEM IN HERE!
PET SHOP
Bow
Meow
...
PAT
PAT
PAT
BOW WOW

WELCOME!!
MUR MUR
MUR MUR
MUR MUR
IT'S THE SECOND DAY OF THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
AND UNLIKE THE FIRST DAY, PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER CAN BE A PART OF IT AND IT'S BEEN PRETTY LIVELY.
CLICK
BLEEP BLEEP
MY JOB TODAY IS TO TAKE PHOTOS.
CLICK
CLICK
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE CAPTURING THE LOOK OF ALL THE CLASSES AND THE FESTIVE MOOD OF THE FESTIVAL.
I THOUGHT THIS JOB WOULD BE AS SIMPLE AS TAKING PICTURES EVERYWHERE...
UM ...
COULD YOU STOP TAKING PHOTOS OF US?
OH, SORRY.
I'm a member of the festival committee.
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M NOT DOING A VERY GOOD JOB MAKING PROGRESS.

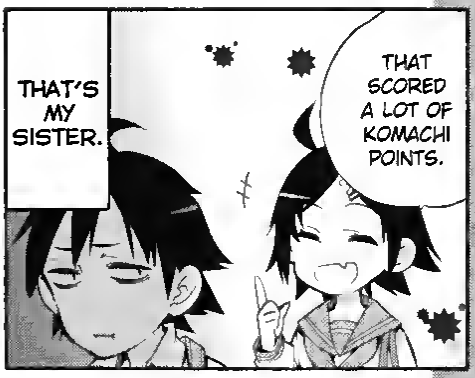
!?


STILL, I CAN'T GET DISCOUR-AGED. I NEED TO FILL MY ROLE.

OH HEY, KOMACHI.

WE'RE NOT IN THE HEATHROW AIRPORT, YOU KNOW.
I HUGGED YOU AFTER WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN A WHILE
I THINK THAT COUNTS FOR A LOT OF KOMACHI POINTS.

Onii-chan!
Whoa!


THAT'S MY SISTER.
THAT SCORED A LOT OF KOMACHI POINTS.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YUKINO-SHITA IS, THOUGH.
I THINK YUIGAHAMA'S IN MY CLASSROOM.
WHERE'S YUI-SAN AND YUKINO-SAN?

WOW, YOU'RE SO COOL...
A LONE WANDERING SPIRIT NEEDS NOT A PLACE TO BELONG TO.
DON'T YOU HAVE A PLACE IN THERE?
WHY AREN'T YOU IN YOUR CLASS-ROOM?

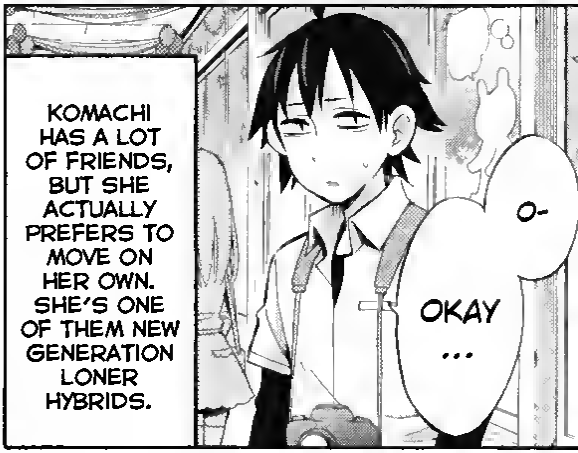
I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU.
YEAH.
DID YOU COME HERE ALONE?
STEP

SO WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
...WORK-ING.
I SAID I'M WORKING.
I AM SERIOUSLY WORKING.
SO WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
THE ONII-CHAN I KNOW WOULD MAKE UP EXCUSES LIKE "OH, I HAVE THIS EXAMINATION I HAVE TO DO WITH MY PARENTS" AND QUIT REALLY SOON... AND YOU'RE WORKING...
.....
YOU'RE WORK-ING...
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU...
BUT, IT'S SO WEIRD.
YOU FEEL SO DIFFERENT FROM HOW YOU USUALLY ARE SO IT FEELS REALLY COMPLICATED.

SEE YOU LATER, ONII-CHAN.
WELL, I'M GONNA BE LOOKING AROUND.

I CAN ACCEPT THAT.
WELL, IT'S MORE LIKE I'M RUNNING ERRANDS FOR AN UNDERLING.

SHE'S LEARNING FROM MY MISTAKES...


KOMACHI HAS A LOT OF FRIENDS, BUT SHE ACTUALLY PREFERS TO MOVE ON HER OWN. SHE'S ONE OF THEM NEW GENERATION LONER HYBRIDS.
O-OKAY...

...!

!
...
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

YOU'RE ALONE, I SEE.
WELL, I'M ALWAYS ALONE.
KOMACHI CAME TO TALK TO ME, BUT NOW I'M JUST DOING MY JOB, ALONE.
MUR MUR
MUR MUR
SO WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
I'M GOING TO THE FINAL MEETING TO ARRANGE THE ENDING CEREMONY.
...
YOU'RE DOING YOUR JOB?
CAN'T YOU TELL ...?
NO. THAT'S WHY I ASKED.
.....
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
TMP
TMP
No way!
Oh no! If we don't hurry, there won't be any seats left!
TMP
TMP

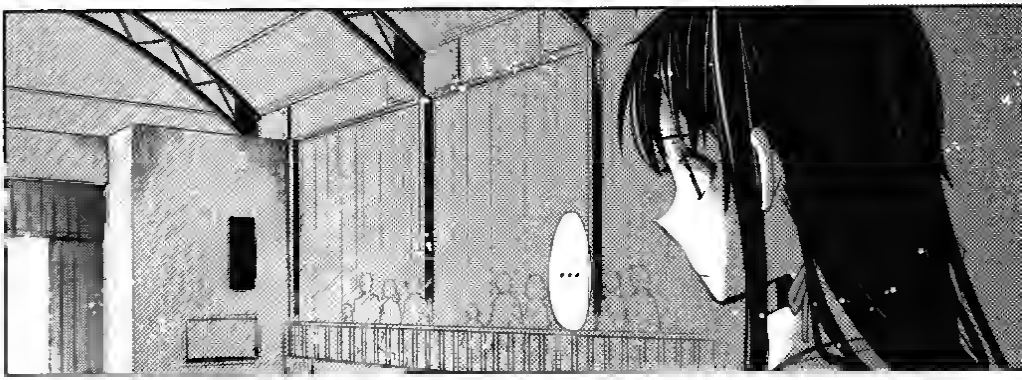
LET'S GO, HIKIGAYA-KUN.
WELL, OKAY ...
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU GET THERE.
WHEN I ENTERED THE GALLERY, WHAT AWAITED ME BEYOND THE AUDIENCE
MUR MUR
MUR MUR
YUKINO-SHITA LED ME INTO THE GYM...
MUR MUR
WAS HER ...

YUKINOSHITA HARUNO WAS ON STAGE.

!
IM-PRESSIVE AS ALWAYS.
THAT'S WEIRD.
I'D NEVER EXPECT YOU TO PRAISE HER.
... REALLY?
IT MAY NOT SEEM LIKE I DO, BUT I HOLD MY SISTER IN HIGH REGARD.
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WANTED TO BE JUST LIKE HER.

...YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LIKE HER.
YOU'RE FINE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.

.....


...

?!
whisper whisper

Vice-Chair

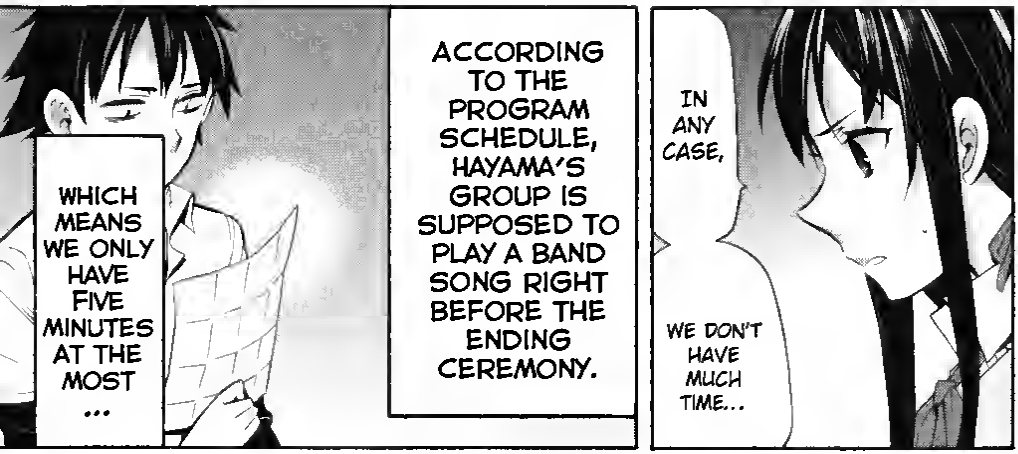
I SEE. NOT EVEN HER PHONE ...
THEN YOU SHOULD TRY BROADCASTING AN ANNOUNCEMENT.
Under-stood
WHAT IS HE, A NINJA?
...?
NO... SHE ISN'T ANSWERING MY PHONE CALLS.
WE TRIED BROADCASTING AN ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK EITHER ...
YOU CAN'T FIND SAGAMI?
WELL THIS IS BAD.
WE CAN'T DO THE ENDING CEREMONY AT THIS RATE.
WE MIGHT HAVE TO FIND A STAND-IN...

THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT.
WE COULD HANDLE THE FINAL GREETINGS AND COMMENTS,
BUT ONLY SAGAMI-SAN KNOWS THE VOTING RESULTS OF THE WINNERS FOR THE MERIT AWARD AND REGION AWARD.

GLARE...
HIKIGAYA ...
WE CAN'T DO THAT...

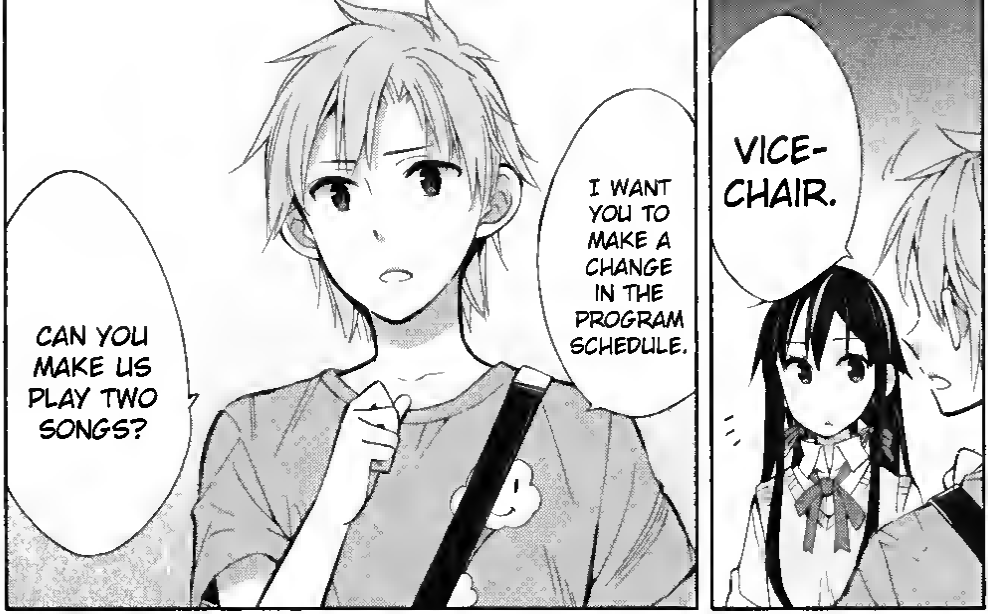
ALL RIGHT, THEN WE CAN JUST ANNOUNCE 'EM TOMORROW.
ONLY IF WE CAN'T FIND HER.
STILL, THERE IS LITTLE POINT IN NOT GIVING OUT THE REGIONAL AWARD TODAY.

THE EASIEST WAY TO HANDLE THIS IS TO MAKE UP THE RESULTS.
THE VOTING TALLY ISN'T MADE PUBLIC ANYWAY.


ACCORDING TO THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE, HAYAMA'S GROUP IS SUPPOSED TO PLAY A BAND SONG RIGHT BEFORE THE ENDING CEREMONY.
WHICH MEANS WE ONLY HAVE FIVE MINUTES AT THE MOST ...
IN ANY CASE,
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...

WHAT'S UP?
STEP

I SEE ...


VICE-CHAIR.
I WANT YOU TO MAKE A CHANGE IN THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE.
CAN YOU MAKE US PLAY TWO SONGS?

...WILL THAT BE OKAY WITH YOU?
YEAH.
YUMIKO.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN SING TWO SONGS?
What? Two songs?
Really?
SHOCK
No, no, I can't, I can't.
I am actually really tired right now!

Ooh ....
PLEASE?
RUSTLE
... SIGH.
THIS IS SO STUPID ...
BUT I'LL DO IT IF I REALLY HAVE TO!
!
I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD POCKET YOUR PRIDE JUST THIS ONCE.
WOW.
NOT COOL.
REALLY?
look, that performance We gotta is over. get ready.
I'm not doing this for you, okay?!
... THANK YOU.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I WANT THIS FESTIVAL TO END ON A GOOD NOTE.
... ANYWAY.

I'LL MAKE A POST ON THE SNS SO ANYONE CAN CONTACT ME WHEN THEY'VE FOUND HER.
THANK YOU.

WE CAN ONLY PERFORM FOR 10 MINUTES AT THE MOST.
SO SHE NEEDS TO BE FOUND IN THAT TIMESPAN...

YOU CAN'T FIND HER WITHOUT A SPECIFIC LOCATION IN MIND.
10 MINUTES IS ONLY ENOUGH TO LOOK IN ONE LOCATION.

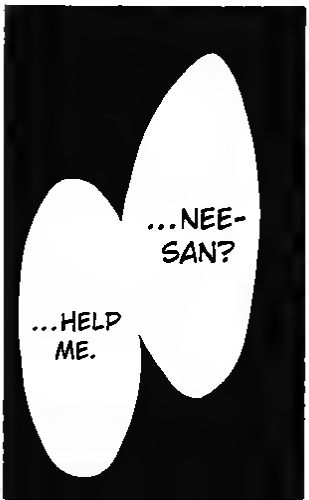
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HER.

HIKIGAYA -KUN.
IF WE CAN EXTEND THE TIME FOR 10 MORE MINUTES, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND HER?
.....
ALL I CAN SAY IS,
I DON'T KNOW.
GRIN

.....

CHK

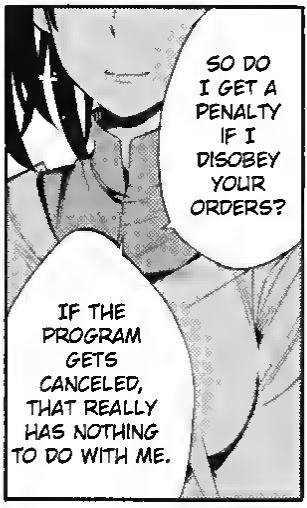
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE.
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
文化


...NEE-SAN?
...HELP ME.

.....
BEEP

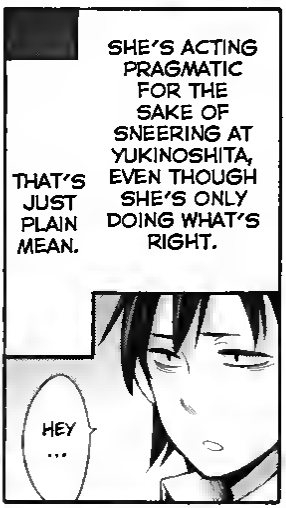
IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU EVER ASKED FOR MY HELP.
SURE.
...
HUH.
SO I'LL LISTEN TO YOUR REQUEST.
I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING THE WRONG IDEA.
THIS IS AN ORDER AS THE VICE-CHAIR.
RE-QUEST?

SO WHAT'LL YOU DO?
ARE YOU GONNA TELL ON ME?


SO DO I GET A PENALTY IF I DISOBEY YOUR ORDERS?
IF THE PROGRAM GETS CANCELED, THAT REALLY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

WHAT IS IT?

BUT THERE IS A MERIT.
THERE IS NO PENALTY.

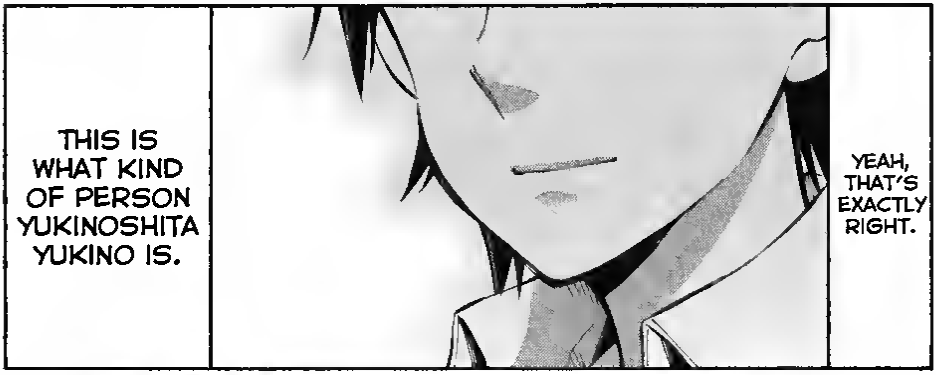

SHE'S ACTING PRAGMATIC FOR THE SAKE OF SNEERING AT YUKINOSHITA, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ONLY DOING WHAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S JUST PLAIN MEAN.
HEY ...

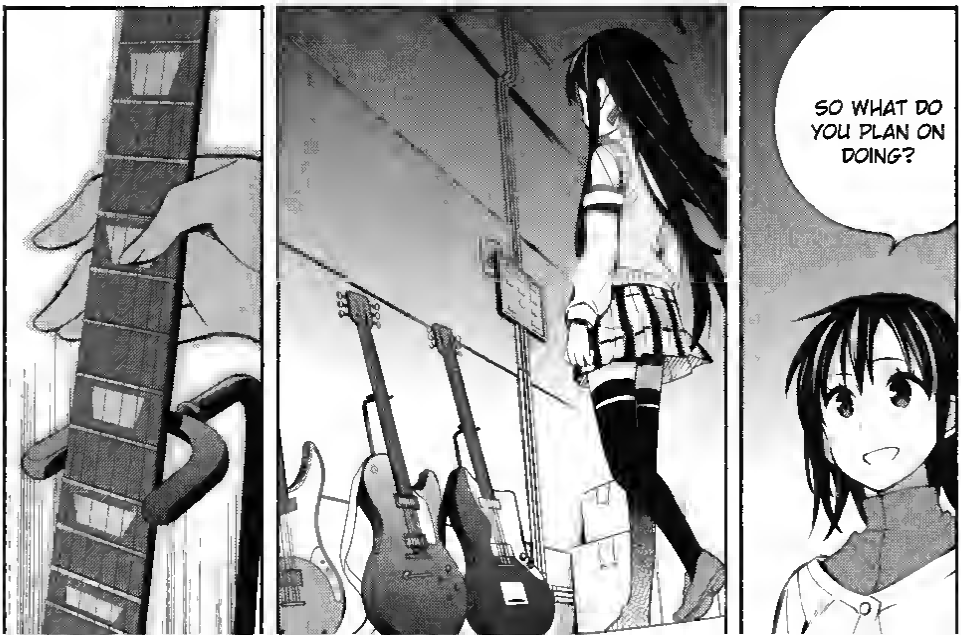
!

I AM GOING TO BE INDEBTED TO YOU.
HOW YOU INTERPRET THAT IS UP TO YOU.
HUH ...
YOU'VE GROWN UP, YUKINO-CHAN.
NO.
I WAS ALWAYS THIS KIND OF PERSON.
YOU HAVEN'T REALIZED THAT IN THE 17 YEARS WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER?

...WHAT?
GLARE
NOTHING.

...HA!


THIS IS WHAT KIND OF PERSON YUKINOSHITA YUKINO IS.
YEAH, THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.


SO WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING?

!?
I'M GOING TO PERFORM ONSTAGE.
HEY, YUKINO-SHITA, ARE YOU SERIOUS?
TA
DA
HUH. THAT'S RICH.
SO, WHAT'S THE SONG?

THE SAME SONG YOU PLAYED DURING THE FESTIVAL.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PLAY IT NOW?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?
CAN YOU PLAY IT?
I CAN.
YOU'VE USED TO ALWAYS PLAY IT, SO I THINK I HAVE MOST OF IT DOWN.
I BET SHE PRACTICED THE SONG IN SECRET.
SMILE

I THINK I CAN STILL PLAY IT IF IT'S THE ONE WE'VE ALWAYS PLAYED.
MEGURI?
YEAH, NO PROB-LEM!
NOW WE JUST NEED A SINGER.

I RELY ON YOU?
IS IT OKAY IF
YUI-GAHAMA-SAN
HUH?
... BUT ...
I might actually mess up...
Oh!
Um, I'm not really confident ...
GRAB.

I'VE BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU TO SAY THAT.

.....
...THANK YOU...

Yukinon, that's kind of mean!
THAT MISPRONUNCIATION ALONE IS MAKING ME NERVOUS...
I THINK YOU MEAN "RECOLLECTION".

So you shouldn't expect me to get all the lyrics right!
YEAH.
W-WELL, I'VE GOT A FAINT RECULATION OF THE LYRICS!

... OKAY!
I'M JUST KIDDING. IF YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN'T SING, THEN I CAN JUST SING IT.
SO... UM... I DON'T MIND IF YOU RELY ON ME FOR THAT...

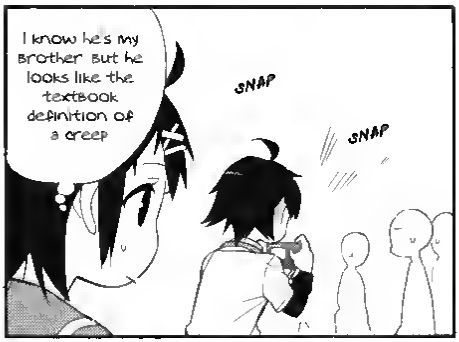
HIKIGAYA-KUN.

I DON'T BELONG WITH THE STAGE PERFORMERS, WHO ARE ONLY THERE TO STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT.
NOW IT'S MY TIME TO SHINE.

HIKKY!
GO FOR IT!
DO YOUR BEST.

TIME UNTIL THE ENDING CEREMONY:

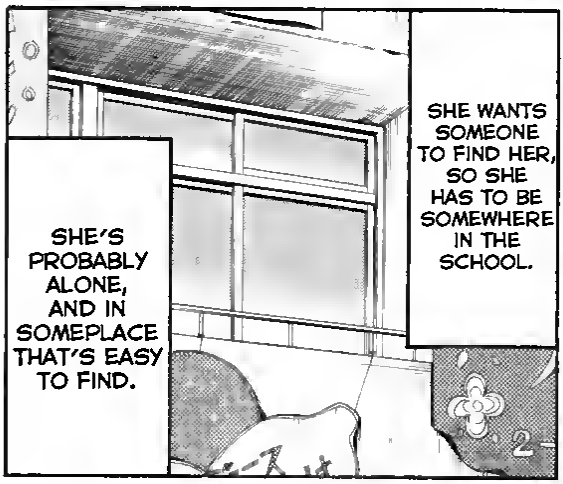
20 MINUTES ...


I know he's my brother but he looks like the textbook definition of a creep
SNAP
SNAP

HOT CHOCOLATE SCANS

TRANSLATOR: GDAFF PROOFREADER: ZEPHYRIAL CLEANER: SILVER PLAYER, PSEUDOLOGUE
REDRAWER: SILVER PLAYER TYPESETTER: STRIKEFURY30 QC: OMEGA765, GDAFF

Chapter 26


SHE'S PROBABLY ALONE, AND IN SOMEPLACE THAT'S EASY TO FIND.
SHE WANTS SOMEONE TO FIND HER, SO SHE HAS TO BE SOMEWHERE IN THE SCHOOL.

WHAT DOES SOMEONE WHO CAN'T FIT IN WANT THE MOST?
THAT WOULD BE FOR SOMEONE TO REACH OUT TO THEM.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LOSE.
I NEED TO NARROW DOWN MY CHOICES...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
WHERE COULD SHE BE?

Shinya
.....
CHK
IT IS I!
...
WHERE DO YOU USUALLY GO WHEN YOU'RE ALONE IN SCHOOL?
ZAI-MOKUZA.
WHAT, TRYING TO REVEAL ME TO MY ENEMIES? BAHON, I ALWAYS USE MY SUSPEND MODE TO—
TSK!
I'M HANGING UP.
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, PLEASE!
I USUALLY GO TO THE BALCONY OF THE NURSE'S OFFICE! THE LIBRARY TOO!

AND SOME-TIMES ...
SO SHE CAN'T BE IN EITHER OF THEM.
AND THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED TODAY.
THERE'S ALWAYS BOUND TO BE SOMEONE IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE, SO IF SAGAMI WAS THERE, SHE WOULD'VE BEEN FOUND ALREADY.
THE ROOFTOP FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.
CREAAAAAK
KA-CHK

.....
...!
STEP

YOU NEED TO COME BACK. THE ENDING CEREMONY IS ABOUT TO START.

SO—
HMM. WHO EXACTLY?

...ISN'T IT ALREADY STARTING?
WELL NORMALLY, IT WOULD BE.
BUT SOME OF US ARE STALLING FOR TIME.

WELL... MIURA'S GANG AND YUKINOSHITA TOO.
THEN TELL YUKINOSHITA-SAN TO TAKE CARE OF IT.
SHE CAN DO ANY-THING.

Then take the stupid results!
WHAT? THAT'S NOT EVEN THE PROBLEM HERE.
YOU'VE GOT THE RESULTS FOR WHO'S WINNING THE AWARDS AND WHATNOT.
SAGAMI'S REQUEST FOR YUKINOSHITA WAS TO MAKE SURE SHE FULFILLED HER DUTY AS THE CHAIRWOMAN OF THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE.
BUT THAT WON'T WORK.
ALL I NEED TO DO IS TELL HER THE WORDS SHE WANTS TO HEAR.
SO THAT I CAN HEAL HER WOUNDED PRIDE.
TO MAKE SURE SHE ACCEPTS HER DUTY OF BEING THE CHAIR-WOMAN ALONG WITH ALL HER FAILURES AND SETBACKS.
Sing a Song
MY DUTY IS TO MAKE SURE SHE GETS BACK ONSTAGE AS THE CHAIR-WOMAN.

I DON'T HAVE IT IN ME TO DO THAT.
BUT UNFOR-TUNATE-LY,
KA-CHK...
!
HAYAMA ...

I ASKED AROUND AND FOUND A GIRL WHO SAW YOU GOING UP THESE STAIRS.
I WAS WORRIED WHEN I COULDN'T CONTACT YOU.
We were really worried about you!
Yeah!
LET'S GO.
WE'RE ALL WAITING FOR YOU.
BUT, I CAN'T GO BACK THERE...
...

GLANCE
Let's go back together.
Yeah, you can. We're all waiting for you.

IF SHE CONTINUES ON MOPING, WE'LL RUN OUT OF TIME.
BUT ...

EVERYONE'S BEEN WORKING HARD JUST FOR YOU.
YEAH.

SO NOW I
WILL DO THINGS MY WAY.

.....
YUKINOSHITA DID WHAT SHE COULD IN HER OWN WAY.

THE ONLY WAY I CAN MAKE THIS WORK IS TO BE AS FAIR, SWIFT, ATROCIOUS, DEGRADING AND SPITEFUL AS I POSSIBLY CAN.
HAHAHAHA
BUT I'M THE WORST...
IT'S FINE. LET'S JUST GO.

YEAH, YOU ARE THE WORST.

!?
SAGAMI.
YOU'RE ONLY DOING THIS FOR ATTENTION.
THAT ACT OF YOURS IS SO PEOPLE WILL PAY ATTENTION TO YOU, RIGHT?
RIGHT NOW, I'M SURE YOU WANT SOMEONE TO TELL YOU "YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG".
IT'S NO WONDER NO ONE SEES YOU AS THE CHAIRWOMAN.
GLARE
WHAT ARE YOU...

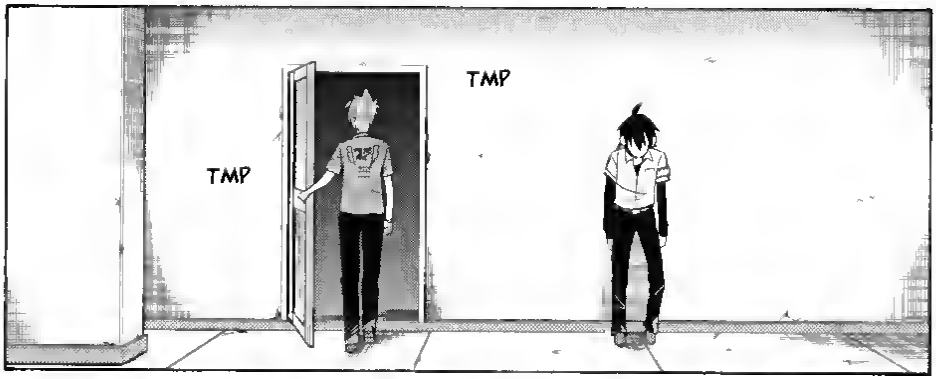
YOU ACTUALLY WANTED TO BE JUST LIKE YUKINOSHITA.
SOMEONE WHO'S SEEN AS RELIABLE AND TRUST-WORTHY.
THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T HESITATE TO GET YOUR HANDS ON THAT CHAIRWOMAN RIBBON.
YOU ALSO WANTED AN EXCUSE TO LABEL PEOPLE AND LOOK DOWN ON OTHERS JUST SO YOU COULD FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOURSELF.
THAT'S YOUR DEFINITION OF "GROWING UP TO BE A BETTER PERSON".
EVERYONE'S PROBABLY FIGURED IT OUT.
IT WASN'T HARD FOR ME, EVEN THOUGH I KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT YOU.
DON'T BRING ME
TO YOUR LEVEL...
WE'RE THE SAME.
WE BELONG TO THE LOWEST LEVEL OF SOCIETY.

THINK ABOUT IT.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOU, YET I FOUND YOU FIRST.
MEANING THAT NO ONE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT LOOKING FOR YOU.
HAVEN'T YOU FIGURED IT OUT BY NOW?
THAT'S ALL YOU ARE WORTH TO—
GRIP
BAM

SHUT UP.
HIKI-GAYA.
... HA.
Hayama-kun, stop it, it's fine!
Just leave him, okay?
.....
... LET'S GO.

THAT SCUMBAG DEFINITELY HAS NO FRIENDS.
I CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE HE'S A STUDENT.
I CAN FEEL HOW ROTTEN HE IS.

ISN'T THAT GUY AWFUL?
HE'S DISGUSTING. HE'S ALL TALK.

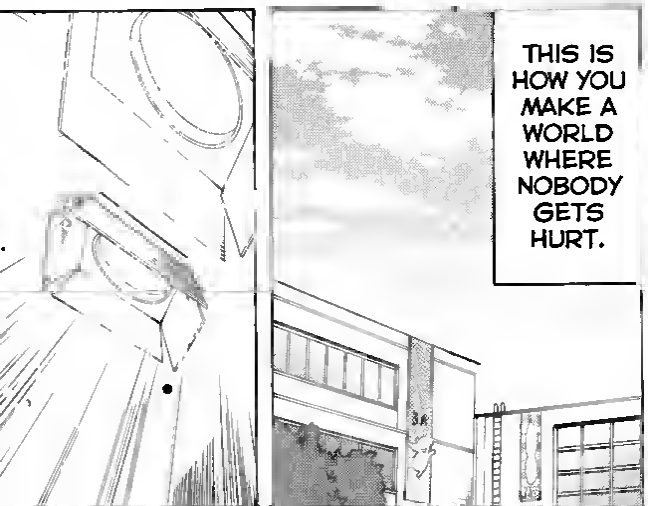

TMP
TMP

TMP
TMP
TMP
SHUT...

...WHY IS THIS
THE ONLY WAY YOU DEAL WITH THINGS?
2F

SIGH...
.....

SEE?
IT'S SO SIMPLE.


THIS IS HOW YOU MAKE A WORLD WHERE NOBODY GETS HURT.

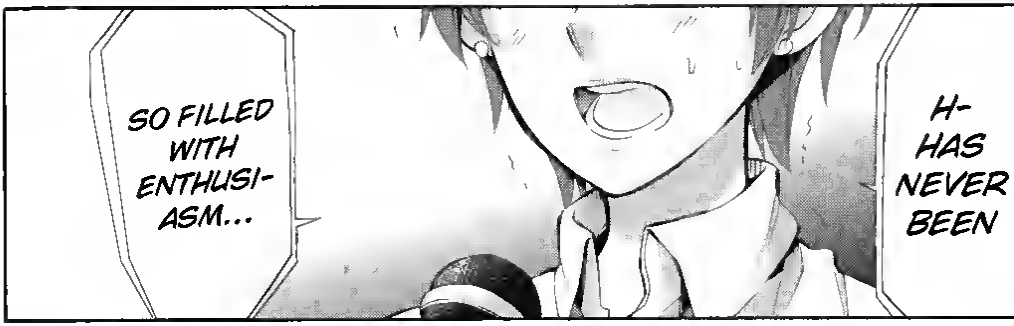
HAYAMA, I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE SO COOL AND NICE.
HAYAMA HAYATO NEEDED TO BE PISSED.

Soubu High Cultural Festival
Chiba's Specialties: Dancing and Festivals
We're all Fools,
so let's dance and
Sing a Song!!

THE FINAL PERFOR-MANCE OF THIS LONG, LONG FESTIVAL.
NOW EVERY-THING WILL COME TO AN END.

BUT EVEN SO,
I WILL NEVER FORGET THIS SIGHT...
OH, I REMEMBERED I HAD HISTORIAN DUTIES.
IN THAT CASE,
I'LL BE SURE TO ETCH THIS INTO MY MEMORY.
I'M JUST A SILENT ONLOOKER AT THE VERY BACK OF A ROARING CROWD.
PP
P
P
総武高校文化祭!!
Sing a Song!!

THIS YEAR'S CULTURAL FESTIVAL
...TH-THIS


SO FILLED WITH ENTHUSI-ASM...
H-HAS NEVER BEEN

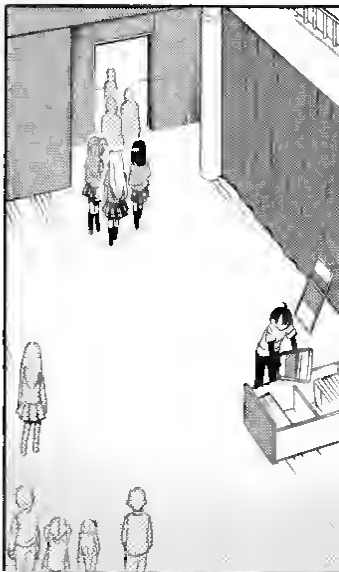
CHEER UP, SAGAMIN.

HE'S DEFINITELY CRAZY.
HIC
HIC
YOU WOULD'VE BEEN FINE IF HE DIDN'T SAY ANY OF THAT.
ARE YOU OKAY?
...WELL, HE DOES HAVE A BAD ATTITUDE.
BUT HE'S PRETTY EASY TO TALK TO SOMETIMES.
MAN, HIKITANI-KUN'S SUCH A DICK!
HE ACTED THE SAME DURING SUMMER BREAK!
HAYATO-KUN IS STICKING UP FOR HIKITANI-KUN...
HAYA-TO'S SO NICE...
BLARGH!
Yesterday's enemy is today's homo--

.....

Hey, Ebina!
You really need to learn how to camouflage!
C'mon, clean your nose!

Hyah- hallo!



Ah, Hikigaya-kun, you're the best, you know that? I heard it from everyone!
I like people who pretend to be the bad guy.
PAT
PAT
You might be too good for Yukino-chan.
.....

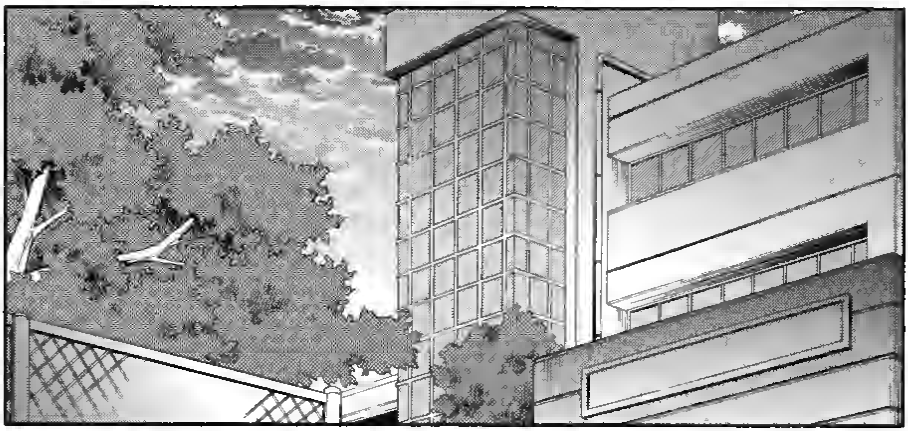
THE SLOGAN AND THE THING WITH SAGAMI, YOUR EFFORTS AT HANDLING BOTH THINGS WERE EFFECTIVE FOR THE MOST PART.

TMP
TMP

SHIZUKA -CHAN?
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE,
PAT

BUT I CAN'T PRAISE YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
WELL, I'M NOT REALLY HURT BY IT...
HELPING SOMEONE ISN'T A GOOD REASON TO HURT YOURSELF.
HIKIGAYA.

...EVEN IF YOU'RE USED TO THE PAIN.
YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T STAND SEEING YOU GET HURT.
OKAY ...



...!

TMP
TMP
TMP

SLIDE

ARE YOU PICKING A FIGHT...?
HELLO, MR. MOST-HATED-BOY-IN-SCHOOL.
OH.
YOU ALREADY KNOW I'M NOT GOING SO DON'T EVEN BOTHER ASKING.
TMP
TMP
WHAT ABOUT THE CLOSING PARTY?
AREN'T YOU GOING THERE?
HEH!
I'M JUST GLAD THAT I'M IN THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.
SO HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE HATED BY EVERYONE IN THE SCHOOL?

I DON'T HATE IT ACTUALLY.
THE WAY YOU'RE CONTENT WITH YOUR WEAK-NESSES...
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO BE SURPRISED OR ASTOUNDED ...
YOU'RE SO STRANGE.
I NEED TO WRITE DOWN THE NUMBERS FROM THE CAREER SURVEYS.
SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU IN HERE?
I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME SINCE I WAS BUSY WITH THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS.
Career Surveys
Career #1
Career #2
Career #3
IN FACT, I LOVE THAT ABOUT MYSELF.
YEAH, I DON'T HATE IT EITHER.
I SEE.
WE THINK ALIKE, DON'T WE?
I'M HERE TO WRITE A REPORT.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
BETTER TO DO IT WHERE IT'S QUIET AND EASY TO CONCENTRATE.

...
RIGHT.
WE ARE NOTHING ALIKE.
IT DOESN'T MAKE US ALIKE.
WELL, I THINK IT'S A MATTER OF LACK OF CHOICE.
CONVERGENT EVOLUTION, BUT FOR LONERS.
OLD QUESTIONS CREATE NEW ANSWERS, FORMING A CONCISE CONCLUSION.
BUT ...
IT'S SURELY BECAUSE SHE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM ME THAT TALKING TO HER MAKES ME FEEL REFRESHED AND AT EASE.
SHE AND I MUST BE ...
--IN THAT CASE ...

.....
...HEY, YUKINO-SHITA.
LET'S BE FR—
I'M SORRY. THAT'S NOT HAPPENING.
OH REALLY ...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO BE FRIENDS.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE?
Bah!
You didn't even let me finish!

I DON'T LIE.
YES, REALLY.
...NO.
I LIE QUITE A BIT.
IT'S FINE TO LIE.
.....

IT'S FINE TO SAY THAT YOU DON'T KNOW SOMEONE WHEN YOU DO.
IT'D BE WEIRD FOR SOMEONE TO CORNER YOU WITHOUT BEING CONSIDERATE.
YUKINO-SHITA SHOULD KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
WHO I'M TALKING ABOUT...
AND WHEN IT HAPPENED.
.....
...I WASN'T LYING WHEN I SAID THAT.
I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW YOU BACK THEN.
BUT ...

I KNOW YOU NOW.
!!!
OH REALLY...
YES, REALLY.
ガラッ

NOPE, NOT GOING.
Let's go to the after party!

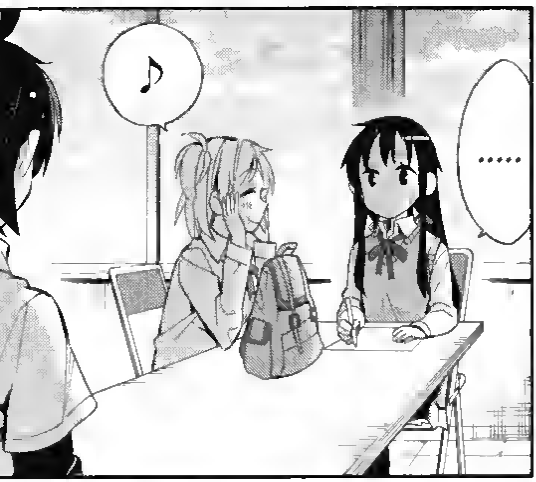
Yahallo!
That was a nice festival!

You say no when you don't even know what it is?!
SO WHAT'S THE AFTER PARTY?

Yeah!
ACCORDING TO THE NUANCE, IT MUST BE A PARTY AFTER A FESTIVAL, RIGHT?

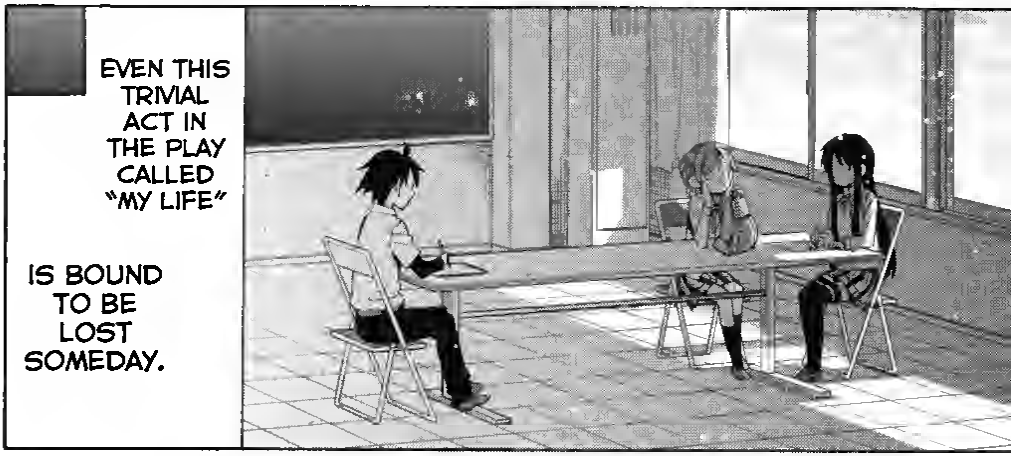
YOU DON'T LOOK SO SURE...
THE AFTER PARTY IS... UH... UM...
IT'S LIKE A CLOSING PARTY, BUT BIGGER...

SO WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?
WRITING A REPORT OF THE FESTIVAL
COUNTING NUMBERS FROM CAREER SURVEYS
HEY.
DON'T GO MAKING PUNS OUT OF MY NAME.
WHY DON'T YOU ATTEND THAT PARTY, MR. JOBBER-FOR-HIRE?
WELL ISN'T THAT GOOD FOR YOU.
LIVE HOUSE
HAYATO-KUN IS HOSTING A PARTY IN THE NEARBY LIVE HOUSE!
HE'S INVITING A LOT OF PEOPLE, NOT JUST CLASSMATES...


♪
.....

BUT I NEVER SAID I WOULD GO...
Then I'll wait until you're finished.
Hmm ...

IN LIFE, YOU CAN'T GET BACK WHAT YOU'VE LOST.
WHEN A FESTIVAL ENDS, IT ENDS FOR KEEPS.


EVEN THIS TRIVIAL ACT IN THE PLAY CALLED "MY LIFE"
IS BOUND TO BE LOST SOMEDAY.

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
AND WHEN I'VE FINALLY LOST IT,
I WILL SURELY LOOK BACK ON IT WITH MELAN-CHOLY...

?
GIGGLE
That was distinctively funny.
Mr Jobber-for-hire-
ooo

HOT CHOCOLATE SCANS

TRANSLATOR: GDAFF PROOFREADER: ZEPHYRIAL CLEANER: SILVER PLAYER, PSEUDOLOGUE
REDRAWER: SILVER PLAYER TYPESETTER: STRIKEFURY30 QC: OMEGA765, GDAFF